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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2012

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## Future of hospital hangs in balance

**THE future status of the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, is in the balance – as a result of proposals to modernise the NHS in south Wales.** The public is being asked to comment on the proposals appears to be that consultants and senior doctors are being asked to cover too many centres – and the plans call for consolidation.

The public is being asked to comment on the proposals over a 12-week consultation period that will end on December 19. The proposal document says that A & E and paediatric services are both particularly affected by difficulty in recruiting doctors, and that as a result, there will have to be more centralisation.

The plans talk about introducing either four or five hospitals which will be called 'regional centres'. Other hospitals will, inevitably, be downgraded. For instance, an A & E department could become a minor injuries unit.

Therefore, the status of the Princess of Wales will depend on whether it becomes a south Wales regional centre, and opponents of the plan, particularly local Conservative AMs, are not optimistic that it will.

It appears that three hospitals, the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Morriston in Swansea, and a new Specialist Critical Care Centre (SCCC) at Cwmbran are almost certain to be chosen.

This means that either one, or perhaps two, of the Princess of Wales, the Royal Glamorgan at Llantrisant and the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr could be designated a regional centre.

If just one is chosen, it does not look good for Bridgend, situated as it is halfway between Swansea and Cardiff.

The Royal Glamorgan has the advantage of being convenient for the larger communities in the Rhondda and Cynon valleys.

(Continued on page 13)

## New sculptures for revamped shopping area



New artwork has been unveiled at Cheapside, as the shopping area undergoes a revamp. Sculptor David Anand (second right) and poet Rhian Edwards (second left) collaborated on the project and worked with pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School, who attended the opening ceremony with the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Marlene Thomas and her father, George. See full story on page 12.

(Photograph by RANDELL JOHN: Contact 01656 662324 or [www.randelljohnphotography.com](http://www.randelljohnphotography.com))

## Burglar is jailed after stealing from widow (75)

(SEE FULL STORY PAGE 11)

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## MP visits a Hope Chapel campaigner



ABOVE: Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon handing over the cheque to Lana Morgan and builder Paul Marshallsea.

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon went back to Hope Chapel in Porthcawl this week to meet up with the secretary Lana Morgan, to find out how the campaign to save Hope Chapel was going.**

She said: "When I met with Lana Morgan a couple of months ago I had been shocked at the extent of the work needed at the Chapel, and I wanted to see how things were going. "Also, I had a cheque from a questionnaire completed to boost the funds, which was a welcome surprise."

With Lana was Paul Marshallsea, the project co-ordinator for the Engine House Community Project, who had saved a listed building that was due for demolition in Dowlais and has now become a hub for the

youth community.

Paul had seen the plea for help and has kindly offered his knowledge and determination to help assist Lana with saving Hope Chapel.

The chapel is 185 years old and desperately needs a new roof and a lot of maintenance work to restore the building to its former state. There has been a good response from the general public to their plea for help in a local paper and results of their funding applications are still awaited.

The good news is the builder has now started work on the roof and the restoration of the building has begun, but help is still needed!

If you can help in any way, contact Lana Morgan by email: [hopechapel-porthcawl@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hopechapel-porthcawl@hotmail.co.uk), telephone: 07840 162316, or write to 319 New Road, Newton, Porthcawl, CF36 5PH.

## Choir gives a 'spectacular performance'

**BRIDGEND Male Choir gave yet another spectacular musical performance at their annual concert recently in St Mary's RC Church, Bridgend.**

Some 75 choristers took to the stage, accompanied by their exceptionally talented musical team: Laura Smith, Stephanie Bailey and Scott Williams, led by musical director Rhianon Williams-Hale.

They performed a programme of established favourites plus new pieces which have been added to their extensive repertoire.

It began with the choir singing three beautiful Welsh hymns.

There were also a few tears when composer, Gareth Davies, spoke movingly about the very sad loss of John Jenkins, the choir's MD for 10 years – but everyone was delighted to welcome Wendy, John's widow, who has agreed to remain involved with the choir as one of the vice-presidents.

As a special tribute, three of John's favourite pieces were performed, two of which he had arranged specially for the choir.

The excellence of the musical team was showcased firstly when Scott Williams gave a majestic organ recital – 'Crown Imperial' by William Walton – and during the second half of the concert when Laura Smith and Stephanie Bailey thrilled the audience with their performance of the four-handed Dvorak Slavonic 'Dance No8', receiving a standing ovation.

It was then the turn of MD Rhianon Williams-Hale to turn the tables by handing the role over to her new deputy Stephanie Bailey while she took over the role of accompanist to the choir.

Lyric-coloratura soprano, Elinor Rolfe Johnson, winner of the 2012 Russell Sheppard Scholarship, entertained the audience with five very different pieces.

Elinor also joined the choir for a very moving performance of Verdi's 'La Vergine Degli Angeli'. As usual, their professionalism shone through as they were word perfect with no musical scripts to help them along.

Once again, a very memorable evening – thank you Bridgend Male Choir!

Mrs M Hughes

## '...Where there's a willow, there's a way'

**THE August visit to Windsor was a great success.**

The superintendent of Windsor Castle was an old friend of our former president, Mary Poland, and our ladies were well looked after.

They saw the outside of the royal apartments and the Long Drive, and a visit was also made to see the Doll's House and the photographic exhibition, followed by St George's Chapel.

September opened with Coity fete – later than usual, having been postponed due to bad weather earlier in the summer. Coity WI had a 'miscellany stall', which proved very popular, and the ladies were pleased with what they achieved.

The following week, we joined Ti'r Iarl' WI for a walk in Porthcawl. After meeting near the lighthouse, we walked to

### NEWS FROM COITY WI

Rest Bay, then along the new section of the Wales Coastal Path, past the golf club and back to Porthcawl via Nottage.

It was a beautiful, but blustery day, and the walk ended with a well-deserved coffee at a sea-front cafe.

The Glamorgan Federation Quiz saw us back at Porthcawl, to the Hi-Tide, where teams from the district gathered for the popular evening of brain-teasers.

Although Coity didn't win, the evening was very enjoyable and we thought we put in a creditable performance.

The winners, who seemed surprised but delighted to win, were the ladies of Culverhouse Cross.

The speaker at the

monthly meeting was Claire Revera who gave a very enjoyable illustrated talk on working with willow.

The video demonstrated varieties of willow, styles of weaving and examples of Welsh basketwork.

Everyone took the opportunity to be creative and handle the willow, producing some simple but effective bird feeders.

We were pleased to welcome six new ladies to our meeting, and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

Visitors are always welcome and we have room for new members.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on October 31 at Coity Church Hall, when the speaker will be Mr David Bray, whose subject is 'The rubbish tip wot I built'. ES

## Resident dons her carrot costume for the Fight for Sight

**BRIDGEND resident Angharad Hobby (21) completed a 15-mile walk through the streets of London dressed in a home-made carrot costume – as part of the Fight for Sight Carrots Night Walk on Friday, September 21.**

Angharad, who is in her third year at Cardiff University, is aiming to raise £150 for Fight for Sight, the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding pioneering eye research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease.

She said: "I jumped at the chance to walk round London dressed as a carrot – what a brilliant way to see the sights! As I'm an optometry stu-

dent, the work that Fight for Sight does to reduce sight loss is very close to my heart, and I'm hoping to raise as much as I can for the charity."

Sam Davies, events manager at Fight for Sight, said: "For millions of people living with incurable eye conditions, the pioneering research funded by Fight

for Sight is their only hope of seeing once again."

To support Angharad, visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/vegetablepunsarehardtobee>. For more information about Fight for Sight, visit: [www.fightforsight.org.uk](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk) /carrots, or call 0207 264 3900.

## 'Immigrants support ageing population'

**D J RADFORD (GEM letters, September 20) is wrong to suggest that Britain is a country with its priorities in the wrong order.**

The letter refers to a Bulgarian family who were found sleeping rough outside Westminster Abbey and were sheltered in a council house.

This was not a shortcut to a life on benefits, however, but temporary accommodation as their claim for asylum was assessed.

The family were housed there to protect several children, who were reported to be

sleeping rough amongst discarded nappies, and as an alternative to family detention centres which imprison children alongside their parents.

Even legal immigrants from Bulgaria are not protected by the benefits system until they have worked for 12 months.

They pay taxes and help to support our ageing population, often returning home without making any requests of the state.

Immigration from outside the EU is only possible if there are vacancies British nationals cannot fill, and this has been essential in restoring institutions like the NHS to their former glories.

Your correspondent also mentions MPs' expenses. The cost of allowances has risen this year, but only in comparison to 2010/2011, when the general election resulted in a long period where MPs were away from Westminster and did not make any claims.

It is quite right that the use of taxpayers' money should be made more transparent, just as it is surely right that we protect children of any nationality from destitution or imprisonment. These are British values and we can be proud of them.

**MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend**



The life size sculptures on display in reception at the Civic Offices, in Angel Street, Bridgend.

## Children's sculptures go on show

**LOCAL children's artwork created during Play 4 Life summer activity is on show at the BCBC Civic Offices.**

The life-size sculptures bring picture book artist, Anthony Browne's colourful and imaginative combination of pictures and narrative to life.

They portray characters such as Alice in Wonderland's the Queen of Hearts and Willy the Wimp – a character said to be based on the artist himself.

The free Play 4 Life

sessions took place in Ogmere Valley Life Centre and Porthcawl Primary School and around 500 local children took part this year. Local town and community councils funded the activity, which encouraged children to be more active and creative, and to have more fun playing.

Following their display in the National Museum in Cardiff, the sculptures have been relocated to the reception area of the Civic Offices Angel Street until October 26.

## Musicians sought I AM writing to raise awareness of a new project being started in Porthcawl.

The Porthcawl Community Orchestra is a venture that is currently being put together, and we are looking for musicians. Anybody can join regardless of age, background or location.

All that is required of members is that they own their own instrument and music stand, and can play to roughly a grade four standard. There are no joining or membership fees.

I would encourage any instrumentalists to join. This is a truly exciting opportunity and is not to be missed!

Anybody interested in signing up, or looking for more information, can contact Jack Bridger on 07861600667 or [jack\\_bridger@live.com](mailto:jack_bridger@live.com). Jack Bridger, Porthcawl.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL OCTOBER 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	09.20	9.3	21.38	9.2
05 Fri	09.49	9.1	22.09	8.8
06 Sat	10.22	8.7	22.41	8.3
07 Sun	10.59	8.2	23.19	7.8
08 Mon	11.48	7.7		
09 Tues	00.26	7.4	12.58	7.3
10 Wed	01.53	7.2	14.35	7.4
11 Thur	03.33	7.5	15.49	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



## CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Pyle man jailed for stealing 78-year-old woman's pension

**A 78-YEAR-OLD woman was attacked and robbed a minute after collecting her pension from a post office.**

At Cardiff Crown Court, the man responsible, Darren Dinham, 42, of Pyle Road, Pyle, was jailed for six years, eight months.

Dinham, who appeared via a video link from prison, admitted robbing Cynthia Blight, inflicting grievous bodily harm on her, and taking her vehicle without consent.

Said Judge Philip Richards: "You have allowed yourself to become beholden to heroin. That fact does not help your unfortunate victim."

He told him to reflect on how he would have felt if he had been robbed of his pension. "You targeted a highly vulnerable victim," he said.

Prosecutor John Warren said the robbery occurred near the Co-op supermarket in Pyle.

Mrs Blight had drawn her pension and Dinham stood behind her and followed her. She collected £125 at 3pm on August 20.

As she was walking through the car park, she felt a hand on her shoulder.

"Suddenly, she was attacked," said Mr Warren.

Dinham attempted to take her handbag, causing her to spin around.

"She was dragged to the ground, and fell on her face," said Mr Warren.

Dinham grabbed the bag and went towards her car.

A witness later told the police he did not believe what was happening and shouted at Dinham to leave the woman alone.

Dinham said: "If you come near me, I'll kill you."

He got in the car, started the engine and drove off at speed. Mrs Blight lay on the ground injured.

The car was later recovered in Cychurch.

Mrs Blight was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital and treated for a broken arm, severe bruising, swellings, and grazing to both knees.

She was in a shocked and upset state.

Dinham was arrested shortly after in Bridgend. He said: "I admit I did it. I need to go back to jail. It's the stupidest thing I've ever done."

He said he had gone to Pyle to 'sign on' for benefits, but when he spotted Mrs Blight he had "the mad idea" to steal her bag.

He claimed he didn't see her falling over, and had later gone to Wildmill and bought a large amount of heroin and food.

He was said to have convictions for burglary, taking vehicles, theft, escaping from custody, driving offences, aggravated

criminal damage, possessing heroin and public order offences.

Said his counsel, Hugh Wallace: "The only real mitigation is his guilty plea. No

weapon was used and the victim was vulnerable. It was a ridiculous offence because everyone in the area knows Dinham.

"His victim's injuries

were not caused by being struck, but by being pulled to the ground. For him, robbery is out of character. He was desperate for money to buy heroin."

## Mother and son handled 'stolen' diamond ring

**A MOTHER and son have been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of handling stolen goods after trying to sell a £1,400 five-diamond ring.**

Maria Simons, 52, of Bryn Road, Tondy, was given a conditional discharge for a year, while her son, Andrew Simons, 24, a production planner, of Highmead, Bridgend, was made subject to a community order involving 80 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay costs of £750.

Both defendants were said to have no previous convictions. Each admitted handling stolen goods.

Recorder Christopher Lewis told the pair: "This was a serious offence, though you were not involved in the original taking of the ring.

"It was an impulsive crime and you are both equally guilty."

Helen Roddick, prosecuting, said Amanda Chilcott went to Ynysawdre Leisure Centre and lost her ring. It had been given to her by her husband on her 40th birthday. She had put it on her locker key rubber band.

The next day, she realised she didn't have it, returned to the leisure centre, and reported the matter to the police.

She also went to various jewellers in Bridgend and gave a description of the ring.

Ms Roddick said the defendants went to one jeweller in the town and asked for a valuation. The staff became suspicious and believed it belonged to Mrs Chilcott.

The two later went to another jeweller, and again the staff became suspicious after Maria Simons said she had found the ring on a beach with the aid of a metal detector.

The two went to a third jeweller and were given a valuation of £120.

That jeweller was told by Maria Simons that it had belonged to her late mother, and the police were contacted.

When the police went to Maria Simons' home, they were told it had been found in a gymnasium car park.

She denied saying that she wanted to sell it, and had been eager to find the owner.

Andrew Simons said the ring was found by his then girlfriend, Nicole Jones, whom he has since married, and it had not been an intention to sell it.

Their barrister, Claire Wilkes, said: "They now do not retract they were going to sell it. They retained the ring for two days, believing it was stolen.

"Each now has a conviction for dishonesty. They are truly ashamed of their actions. They never believed in their wildest dreams they would be in such a position. There was no sophistication or planning."

Nicole Jones, 23, denied a charge of theft. The prosecution offered no evidence against her and a not guilty verdict was recorded.

The recorder pointed out that Maria Simons was not fit enough to do unpaid work and had no financial means.

## Eve brings her brand of country rock to Porthcawl

by PHILIP IRWIN

**AMERICAN singer songwriter Eve Selis plays the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on a tour that coincides with her latest Album, entitled Family Tree on Wednesday, October 10.**

On the evidence of the review copy supplied to The GEM, an evening with Eve Selis should be a musical treat.

It is an opinion shared by none other than 'Whispering' Bob Harris, who said: "Eve is a deeply creative, caring artist who gives everything to her craft."

"As a live performer she is awesomely powerful, as a recording artist she is both sensitive and strong."

Go to Eve's website and you will see she classes herself as 'Americana' - but this is a little misleading.

Increasingly, artists are using this category as a way of avoiding the word 'country', because the likes of Tammy Wynette still cast a shadow.

Eve has won seven San Diego Music Awards in 'Americana and Adult Alternative' but the reality is that, on the evidence of Family Tree, Eve sits comfortably in what used to be called country rock.

Think of the Eagles or Linda Ronstadt, but with vocals by Bonnie Raitt and you have a pretty good idea of how Eve sounds with her band on the album.

She has co-written the songs with a variety of artists, although the name that crops up most frequently is Marc Intravia.

In Porthcawl, she will be joined on stage by Marc, rather than the five-piece band on the album. Family Tree has 14 songs, and it is significant that songs 10 to 13 are just as strong as the earlier ones - there is nothing there as a makeweight.

Songs range from witty up-tempo numbers like 'Bump in the Road', 'Water off a duck's back' and 'Rubber and Glue', to tear-jerkers like 'I Don't Want to Cry'.

It's now almost compulsory to include a version of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' on any new album, and Eve's version is right up in the Premier League.

Maybe not quite as good as Renee Fleming's, but she really does put emotion into the lyrics.

Family Tree is an album that sounds good on first listen, and then gets stronger. All the signs are that Eve Selis is on the up and up, and in two years time, I doubt if Porthcawl will be on her tour itinerary.

October 10 is your chance to catch her. Tickets are available through the Grand Pavilion box office.



## Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints

**FOLLOWING the success of last year's Christmas Tree Festival, the Rotary Club of Porthcawl will again organise the event, with the help of All Saints Church.**

It will take place from Monday, December 3 to Monday, December 10.

The festival will include a magnificent display of decorated Christmas trees, and a variety of events will be put on by local schools and organisations over the eight-day period.

As well as remembering the true meaning of Christmas, the festival will be an opportunity for All Saints Church and the Rotary Club of Porthcawl to raise money for local charities.

Many local schools, organisations and businesses will provide and

decorate a Christmas tree to reflect their interests, or themes of their choice.

Those who took part last year will automatically be contacted again this year, but if your organisation wishes to join the 'decking of the hall' for the first time, then it is easy - and free!

All you need to do is to provide and decorate a tree, which would remain your property after the festival, and return an entry form.

It could be your chance to promote your organisation to a wider audience and help the community at the same time.

If you are interested and would like to obtain an entry form, please contact Rotarian Robert Snell at 11, Turnstone Road, Rest Bay, Porthcawl CF36 3RD, or e-mail dawnan-drobert@hotmail.com.

IVOR WILLIAMS

## HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL GETS THE ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

**HERONSBRIDGE pupils got the royal seal of approval when the Earl of Wessex visited their school in his role as Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.**

He spent time with DoE Award participants from Heronsbridge as they took part in various camp craft activities, including tent erecting, camp cooking and map work.

More than 500 young people are working towards the award in Bridgend county borough, including 36 from Heronsbridge who are all encouraged to undertake it in common with their peers from other

schools and youth clubs.

The award encourages young people to develop their skills and to work with various groups in their community, as well as to tackle an adventurous expedition.

A school spokesman said: "Also in attendance at the reception were members of 'The Friends of Heronsbridge' whose fundraising efforts enabled the building of Heron Lodge.

"It is their intention that this becomes a stimulating new environment for all subject areas, particularly science, geography and ESDGC (education for sustainable development and global citizenship). Before he left, pupil



The Earl of Wessex is pictured at Heronsbridge

Rhiannon Cornthwaite presented the Earl with a hand woven willow basket containing herbs and seeds harvested from the school gardens, as well as the first pot of honey produced

by the school's two bee colonies.

Headteacher Glynis James said:

"The children were very proud and excited to welcome the Earl to their gardens and to

show him the activities they are undertaking towards their D of E Award.

"Our visitor was encouraging and supportive. A veritable Prince Charming!"

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## Friends brave the elements to support 'inspirational' Jon



The runners preparing to tackle the Swansea Bay 10k

**ELEVEN friends from Bridgend recently battled with the elements, as they ran the rain-soaked Admiral Swansea Bay 10k**

race in support of a friend with a rare genetic disorder.

Jonathan Bennetta, 23, of The Spinney, Brackla, has Neurofibromatosis Type 2 (NF2), a genetic disorder affecting one in

35,000 people.

The friends raised more than £3,000 for Jonathan's chosen charity, the Neuro Foundation, which aims to improve the lives of those affected by Neurofibromatosis.

Among the runners were Jonathan's brother Christopher, along with Fred Coleman, Matt Jones, Mike Alexander and Luke Fox, all life-long friends.

Luke Fox said: "Jon's family have played a major role in fundraising over the years for the Neuro Foundation, so we

thought it would be a nice gesture to raise money for the charity through doing the run.

"We've all been amazed by everybody's generosity so far and want to say a massive thanks! We would love to raise even more so that the amazing work of the foundation can continue to support Jon and others like him."

Jonathan said: "It was fantastic to see everyone do so well on Sunday. Everybody gave it their all and I'm really proud of their efforts."

"My friends and family have all been so supportive to me over the years and they are all really helping to keep my spirits up. The amount of money that has been raised so far has blown me away."

There is still time to sponsor the runners with amounts of any size being gratefully received, or [www.justgiving.com/run4jon](http://www.justgiving.com/run4jon).

## Porthcawl GP completes epic marathon ride to aid charity

**PORTHCAWL GP Dr Tim Eales recently completed a mammoth cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End - a ride that took 13 days, despite averaging 85 miles a day.**

Report by **PHILIP IRWIN**  
Photograph by **GLYN EVANS**

Thanks to support from his family, friends, patients and local business, the amount raised for Cancer Research UK has already passed £7,000.

Dr Eales told The GEM: "I did the ride for two reasons. First, it was in memory of Gill Crouch, who was the practice manager here in Porthcawl, and who died of cancer five years ago."

"Also, I turned 50 this year so it seemed like a good challenge to set myself."

Dr Eales is a keen cyclist, so training for the ride was a case of gradually increasing the mileage he was doing.

Although many cyclists tend to join up with a like-minded group, he decided to cover the route solo, although he was joined by a friend for the last day or two as he approached Land's End.

He said: "Scotland is definitely the hardest part of the route. The prevailing wind at this time of year is likely to be against you, and that proved to be the case."

"I did take the scenic route, and that meant there were lots of hills, wind and rain."

After crossing the border, the roads became easier and, apart from very stiff legs every morning, things went fairly smoothly.

He added: "I did have one crash when the front tyre punctured. I went over the handlebars, but I was lucky and escaped injury!"

Local businesses who supported his ride were: **Talbot Block Ltd; Balkwills Chemists; Monkstone House, the Co-op Pharmacy; T Elwood Deere and Son Estate Agents; Prestons Estate Agents; Reflex Sales and marketing; and VW Sinclair.**



## Dogs Trust in a search for budding young photographers



ABOVE: The search is on for a great doggy photograph.

**DOGS TRUST is today announcing the launch of its 2012 Junior Canine Carer competition with a nationwide search for the best photo capturing 'A Dog's Day'.**

The UK's largest dog welfare charity, which has a centre in Bridgend is urging budding photographers aged seven to 13 to get snapping to be in with a chance of winning a top of the range Pentax camera and a behind-the-scenes, hands-on day at their nearest Dogs Trust rehoming centre.

"With most children now very 'au fait' with using a camera and able to add all sorts of effects to even the simplest of pictures, Dogs Trust is challenging young kids to flex their fingers and creative minds to zoom in on life as a dog."

Clarissa Baldwin, Dogs Trust CEO, said: "We wanted to give children a chance to capture the fun that dogs can bring to our lives. We can't wait to see what images are captured and imagine the stories they could tell!"

"We have seen

through our extensive education campaign that there are many passionate young dog lovers. We created the Junior Canine Carer competition as a way to give children a chance to have a hand in helping the dogs in our care and learn more about the work we carry out."

If you think you have what it takes to be a Dogs Trust Junior canine carer for a day and would like to enter the competition, simply take a picture of your dog (or a friend or family member's dog) going about his or her normal day with a short caption.

You can send your photo to us one of three ways; by post to Dogs Trust, Junior Canine Carer competition, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ (please note that we are unable to return photos); by email: [juniorecaninecarer@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:juniorecaninecarer@dogstrust.org.uk) or why not upload your picture onto the Dogs Trust Junior Canine Carer album on Flickr, [www.flickr.com/groups/jcc2012](http://www.flickr.com/groups/jcc2012). You have until December 1 to enter, so snap away!

## Three rescued from sea in gale force winds

**TWO male surfers and a male swimmer needed to be rescued by the Porthcawl RNLI crew, during a force eight to nine storm, at 5.20pm on Tuesday (October 2).**

Fortunately, two RNLI crew were at Porthcawl Lifeboat station when they spotted a surfer and body boarder being swept out towards the lighthouse.

While Chris Page prepared for the launch of the Atlantic 85 lifeboat, Chris Missen prepared to throw a life line from the breakwater to prevent the swimmer from being swept into the open sea where conditions would have made it difficult to survive.

He said: "I managed to shout to the surfer on the body board and asked him to try and get close to the swimmer to help support him and offer some floatation. I then managed to throw a rescue line to them and got them to hang on to prevent further drifting towards the lighthouse."

"Within minutes the lifeboat arrived on scene and picked up the

swimmer and body boarder. The lifeboat then returned to pick up the third surfer, who had managed to climb onto the rocks at the end of the eastern arm of the harbour, and brought him ashore."

The two surfers were Gareth Edwards of Aberkenfig and Gavin David of Sarn, both aged 34.

Gareth told shore crew how difficult it had been to hang onto the life-line thrown to him with the current dragging them out along the breakwater towards the lighthouse.

Spokesperson Ian Stroud said: "All three casualties were treated back at the lifeboat station for the effects of the cold."

"The male swimmer besides suffering from the effects of the cold sea had also sustained several cuts and grazes from being swept against the breakwater. All three were extremely lucky that our two crewmen were at the lifeboat station at the time and had seen them in difficulties."

## Who wants to build what and where?

**ABM Trees Ltd - Designer Outlet, The Derwen, Bridgend** - Remove limbs, deadwood and prune back various pine trees and prune goat willow. Mrs E Stephens - **Brackla Baptist Church Office, 6 Garth Drive, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend** - Change of use to children's play area with enclosed car park.

Mr L Tallon-Morris - **Bayside Guest House, 70 Mackworth Road, Porthcawl** - New dormers to front and rear to upgrade two rooms to ensuite.

Mr G John - **3 Pen y Ysgol, Maesteg** - Convert loft to bedroom with Velux windows, replace rear conservatory with kitchen extension, new insulated render.

Mr A Davies - **Land at Pleasant View, Caerau, Maesteg** - Three detached dwellings with garage.

Mr and Mrs Whittaker - **Land at 17 Yr Ysfa, Maesteg** - Erection of two three-bed dwellings and access drive. Mr K Frankton - **170 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla** - Two storey side extension and canopy to front.

Mr Manfred Beckman - **Scrumptious, 22 Penybont Road, Pencoe** - Change of use of first floor office to self-contained residential flat - re-sub of P/12/388/FUL.

Richard Player - **6 Traws Fynydd, Brackla** - Single storey addition to rear elevation.

Mr Kevin Edwards - **Land adjacent Rowland Terrace, Nantymoel, Bridgend** - Erection of store shed and permanent siting of steel container for storage purposes.

Ms S Dando - **4 Rest Bay Close, Porthcawl** - Construction of sun lounge, granny annexe and garage.

Lidl UK GMBH - **Bridgend Retail Park, Bridgend** - Extension to store to include freezer room and bakery preparation area.

Mr and Mrs Patel - **The Stables, Gilfach Orfydd, Dimbath Lane, Blackmill** - Relax conditions 1 and 2 of P/11/755/FUL to allow the property to be used for residential purposes.

Mr G Thomas - **Manor Farmhouse, Porthcawl** - Construction of single storey family room.

Mr Josephine Thomas - **104 Merlin Crescent, Bridgend** - Single storey side extension, widen existing access and extend parking area.

BCBC Children's Directorate, Flying Start Department - **Westward Community Centre, Cefn Glas** - Single storey extension to provide an office base for use by the Flying Start multi-agency team.

Mr Michael Devine - **11 Jubilee Crescent, Bridgend** - Replace rear conservatory with single storey kitchen extension.

Mr B Shotton - **Aldi Stores Ltd, Llynfi Walk, Llynfi Road, Maesteg** - Vary condition 11 of P/95/215/FUL to permit times of unloading of vehicles between the hours of 5am-8pm.

Mr Richard Davies - **22 Cherry Tree Avenue, Porthcawl** - Raise height of roof to accommodate second floor and single storey extension to rear.

Mr Mark Watts - **4 Meadow Close, Coychurch** - Extension to domestic garage.

Mr Bridges - **17 Heol y Gerddi, Pencoe** - Lean to conservatory to rear.

Mr Stuart Paul - **41 Ynysteg, Tondur** - New external ramped access with vehicle hardstanding.



# Porthcawl is packed out as Elvis Festival fans make their annual pilgrimage to the seaside

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased

by contacting:

e-mail ffoimage@tiscali.co.uk

telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

FROM modest beginnings, Porthcawl's Elvis Festival has grown beyond organiser Peter Phillips' wildest dreams.

As the sun shone on Saturday (September 29) the main street and promenade of the town was packed with Elvis fans, with musicians playing outside cafes, and just as many heading to the Hi-Tide Inn, which was featuring Elvis acts all day.

The headline events, as usual took place over three days in the Grand Pavilion, and pubs and hotels around the town put on their own Elvis shows.

Peter Phillips was also delighted with the success of the rockabilly and burlesque festival, staged the previous weekend, and revealed plans to expand it.

(See pages 8 and 25 for more details,  
and more photographs).







LEFT to right: Mrs Joyce Mussion, Mrs Chris Ibester, Ms Ann Day, Mrs Jean Groom and Mrs Lily Laesser.

## Stroke Club celebrates silver anniversary



The Porthcawl Ukelele band entertained guests.



Mrs Barbara Matthews.

**PORHCRAWL Stroke Club is 25 years old, and was founded in 1987 by Mr Jack Mussion, a local dentist in Porthcawl.**

His wife Joyce, who attended the 25th celebration party, also supported his work, and together they formed a committee which met at the Masonic Lodge Porthcawl (free of charge, although a small donation was sometimes given to the Masonic Lodge).

They first got in touch with the Round Table, which helped to finance the project. A lady by the name of Mrs Morris liaised with the Masonic Lodge and the Porthcawl Stroke Club was born.

The Atlantic Hotel held the first sherry morning. A lady by the name of Mrs Jones arranged printing for 120 tickets, while 30 were kept for reserves.

The club linked closely with CHIP (Community Health in Porthcawl) and met regularly at South Road Surgery, courtesy of Mrs Franklyn and Mrs Griffiths. Transport was provided by Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

There was also research carried out at this time by Swansea University SHSA, which the club sometimes helped to finance.

The Stroke Club included exercise equipment, trips, quizzes and speech therapists.

For four years, Mrs Franklyn became the leader of the club and made visits to members on a regular basis at their homes when necessary.

In 1991, she resigned her voluntary post. In September 1994 a new member, Viv Thomas, joined the committee and is still on the committee today.

After Jack Mussion



Mr Ray Cross and Mr Keith Duggan.

resigned as chairman in 1995, Peter Thomas took over with John Phillips and Ray Preedy; Mr Phillips is still serving the club today.

Mrs Joyce Mussion resigned as the club's treasurer at the end of March 2000.

It was decided by the committee at that time, that mornings would be more suitable for their meetings between the times of 10am-12 noon; these times are still the same today; although the club now has its home at the Rest Home.

Since February 2001, Keith Duggan and Ray Cross have run the club on a fortnightly basis; Mrs Penny Owen is vice-chairman, while Mrs Lily Laesser is the club secretary.

Long-serving volunteers were Peter and Audrey Thomas, Frank and Theresa Carter, Jeannie, Marion and Ann Day.

Glenys Lewis is an existing long serving

volunteer and fundraiser. The Porthcawl Stroke Club has enjoyed many events recently, one of which was the club's 25th anniversary event which was held at the Grove Golf Club, with 50 in attendance.

Our guests were Mrs Joyce Mussion, Ms Ann Day, Mr Stan Stennett and his wife Betty.

We had an interesting talk by John Phillips on the club's history and Mrs Barbara Matthews read a short poem.

The Porthcawl Ukulele band were invited and played for the members and guests.

Finally, all the members would like to thank all the volunteers, carers and supporters for keeping this important community service running.

If anyone is interested in joining the Porthcawl Stroke Club, contact Keith Duggan ON 01656 773376, or Ray Cross ON 01656 782190. **BM**

## A 'Band 1' School

# Porthcawl Comprehensive School

## OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 7 INTAKE IN 2013

To be held at 6.00 pm Thursday 11th October 2012

The school is holding its **Annual Open Evening** for those parents who wish their children to attend Year 7 in September 2013.

Anyone interested may obtain more details and 'The Welcome Pack' by e-mailing [OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk](mailto:OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk) or by telephoning 01656 774100.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all. Examination results have been consistently above local and national averages.

### This is what Estyn (School Inspectors) said about us:-

"Transition arrangements from both primary into secondary and into the Sixth Form are very strong. The outstanding primary/secondary liaison is very well co-ordinated".

"Behaviour is very good, based on self-discipline and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers".

"The overall provision for pupils and students personal development is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The quality of the accommodation is good and in some areas very good. The provision of ICT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The school has a very rigorous approach to bullying; there are very good follow up procedures".

"There is an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, held mainly during lunchtimes and after school, the participation rates are very high".

## An MP joins beach clean

**VALE MP Alun Cairns joined the Keep Wales Tidy campaign supporters and Penybont Surf Life Saving Club by helping out on a recent beach clean at Ogmere by Sea.**

Keep Wales Tidy work to encourage local action to protect and enhance the environment of Wales. They helped co-ordinate the beach clean with members of the surf life saving club to ensure that the beach at Ogmere by Sea is kept clean, safe and tidy.

Mr Cairns said: "If you have spent any time on the beach recently, you'll have realised that marine litter has become

a big problem.

"Often the high tide mark on any beach can be littered with all kinds of flotsam and jetsam.

"The plastics, metals and glass don't belong there. Some of it comes from shipping, some from fishing and some from those who visit our beaches.

"The rubbish on our beaches is not only unsightly and potentially hazardous, but it is also harmful to the marine environment in one way or another.

"Penybont Surf Life Saving Club and the team from Keep Wales Tidy made sure that there were many volunteers on hand to help the clear-up - a good job done by all!"





ABOVE: The party with lifeboat crew, RNLI Port Talbot, who escorted the boat Provider to the wreck site

## Local museum helps Norwegian family to pay their last respects

**REPORT AND PHOTOS**  
by CHRIS SWIDENBANK

A PRIVATE wreath-laying ceremony took place near Porthcawl recently, in memory of five crew members of the SS Stalheim, who were lost when, just a few minutes after departure, the ship struck a German mine on July 31, 1940, just 100 metres outside Port Talbot Docks.

Apart from the five seamen who were killed, 13 others were seriously injured, with only three escaping unhurt. A buoy now marks the site of the wreck.

Porthcawl Museum was contacted earlier this year, on behalf of Solveig Synnøve Hanssen, the daughter of one of the Norwegian crewmen, seeking assistance in arranging a private ceremony in honour of her father, Anker Bernhard Bernhardsen, and the other four crew members lost in the sinking.

The remaining crew of 16 and Bert Gunn, the British ship's pilot on board, were rescued by an RAF Air Sea rescue launch stationed at Porthcawl, commanded by Flight Lieutenant



Mrs Hanssen and family, preparing to sail out to the wreck site.

Douglas Lucas. Following the rescue, Flt Lt Lucas recovered SS Stalheim's bell.

Years later, under the terms of Mr Lucas's will, the bell was presented to Porthcawl Museum, where it is presently on display, together with other artifacts.

The ceremony took place on the morning tide, when Mrs Hanssen and her party were taken out on a boat kindly arranged by RNLI Port Talbot, and escorted by the lifeboat.

This was a private moment for Mrs Hanssen to remember her father, whom she had last seen when she was a little girl of eight.

In tribute, she read a poem and the family sang a Norwegian song

before offering prayers and returning to shore.

This was followed by a reception at the RNLI headquarters, attended by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Alana Davies and her consort, Mr Brian Davies.

The Mayor commented that it was wonderful to be invited to share in such a moving event. She expressed her thanks for the huge effort that had gone into arranging the day's events.

Following words of thanks from Werner Hanssen, Mrs Hanssen's son, the chairman of Porthcawl Museum, John David MBE, presented her with a plaque made from Welsh slate to commemorate the occasion.

Mr David said that he was pleased to welcome the Norwegian visitors and that he was very grateful for all the hard work carried out by museum committee members and the RNLI to make the day so successful.

The party then travelled to Porthcawl Museum, where they were greeted by Bridgend MP Madeleine



Porthcawl Museum chairman, John David MBE, presenting Solveig Synnøve Hanssen with the commemorative plaque

Moon, and viewed the display in memory of the SS Stalheim. On behalf of the museum, the secretary, Ceri Joseph, gratefully accepted a book that the family had collated about the ship, and it will go on display soon.

The day ended with a visit to Goytre Cemetery to lay a posy of flowers at the grave of Albin Andersen, whose body was the only one recovered.

The family expressed their gratitude for all the hard work that had gone into making the day so memorable. Mrs Hanssen was pleased that she had been able to visit her father's last resting place and honour his memory.

She was amazed and touched by the friendliness, warmth and interest shown by everyone she and her family had met throughout the day.

## POET GETS DEPARTMENT STORE GIG

**JOHN LEWIS** in Cardiff is celebrating National Poetry Day today (Thursday) by introducing its own 'Poet in Residence', Rhian Edwards from Bridgend.

In association with Literature Wales, the Cardiff department store has commissioned up-and-coming Welsh poet, Rhian Edwards from Bridgend, to spend a day in the shop and lead a series of workshops encouraging shoppers, school pupils and students to get versed in the ways of poetry.

She will also write her own poetry on the subject of home, inspired by her visit to John Lewis, which will be displayed in-store and tweeted from the official John Lewis twitter feed. In addition, she will scribble take-away poems on demand for shoppers that can be kept as a keepsake.

Chris Earnshaw, managing director of John Lewis Cardiff, said: "On National Poetry Day, we wanted to show that everyone can get involved in poetry and have fun!"

"We've set up a comfy base in one of our room sets on the second floor for people to kick back, take five and find their inner 'muse', with Rhian's help."

Rhian Edwards's first collection of poems, *Clueless Dogs*, was published by Seren in May 2012, and has since been shortlisted for the Forward Prize for First Collection 2012, the results of which will be announced on October 1.

Rhian was also awarded the John Tripp Award for Spoken Poetry 2011, winning both the judges and the audience award, making her Wales's best performance poet.

Her poetry has also attracted the attention of Welsh singer-songwriter Cerys Matthews, who recently read her poem *Fruition* on air on BBC Radio Six Music, as part of her Poetry in Motion slot.

Rhian said: "I was totally thrilled when John Lewis approached me and asked me to take part in the day."

"The workshops will be fun and interactive, and we're looking to use a range of materials to get people inspired, from fridge magnetic poetry to creating a line of bardic bunting!"

"It's all about encouraging people to get stuck in and letting their imagination take them wherever they want to go."



Rhian with the managing director of John Lewis, Chris Earnshaw.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
**ST BRIDES MAJOR**  
Your local correspondent is  
**Patricia Bevan-Morgan**  
(01656) 880418

**Open day**  
THE open day at the Heritage coast on Sunday, September 16, was very successful, and members and friends went on safari in the covered trailer, courtesy of Peter Davies of Slade (Pitcot) Farm.

Peter, driving the tractor, gave a most interesting talk on the crops and animals on this organic farm. After the ride over the fields, it was back to the centre at Southerndown for a welcome cup of tea. It is hoped to run further 'safari' trails on the weekends.

**Age Concern**  
AGE Concern opened a new club in Ewenny on Wednesday, September 19, which was well attended.

At this opening, Oliver Bown and his quartet entertained. There will be coffee and chat every Wednesday, 10am-12 noon, and there are monthly speakers. The cost will be £1.50 including coffee, tea and biscuits.

**Diary dates**  
DATES for your diary: At Ewenny Village Hall (Old School), Wednesday, October 31, Mrs Bird will give a talk on 20 years with Barry Swan Rescue and will also bring along some rescued owls.

On Wednesday, November 29, a talk on Dylan Thomas by Alun Jones.

For further information, call Jane Platts on 01446 795631.

**Karate**  
ST BRIDES Major Karate Club has once

again commenced after the summer break.

If you would like to learn the art of self defence karate, which is one of the most effective form of self defence and a good way to keep fit, why not go along to the St Brides Major Primary School on a Thursday evening to discuss it with qualified instructor Grahame Barry? Juniors train 6pm-7pm and seniors 7pm-8pm (male or female). For further information, telephone 01446 774148.

**Ogmore residents**  
OGMORE Retired Residents Association had a day out at Porthcawl and visited The Rest, where they had coffee before being given a tour and a talk of the history of the building.

This was followed by a superb lunch. The following week they met at All Saints, Southerndown and members told of how they had spent their summer holidays.

**Blind auction**  
ON Friday, September 21, a very successful 'Blind Auction' was held at the Fox and Hounds.

A big thank you to Mark the landlord and his customers for a brilliant evening, when an amazing £700 was raised in aid of the Stroke Association, Bridgend, who meet at the Evergreen Hall, Bridgend, and do so much work in the community.

Eileen (herself a stroke victim) and sister Rosemary, the organisers, thank all who attended the auction for digging deep into their pockets - it is much appreciated.

**Did you know  
you can read  
your GEM  
online?**

[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)



# Rockabilly festival has potential to be more than just an Elvis weekend curtain raiser!

**Report and words by:  
FRANK SHIPTON.**

**Email: [frankshipton@mac.com](mailto:frankshipton@mac.com)  
Telephone: 07790 882925**

**AS a curtain raiser to last weekend's Elvis Festival, impresario Peter Phillips presented the first Welsh Rockabilly Music festival over three days, September 21-23.**

Bands from all over the UK performed at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, and there were midnight burlesque shows as well!

A marquee also offered a Camden-style market, with its own tea rooms.

There were also free burlesque classes for those brave enough to take part, and also free hula hoop classes.

A cavalcade of 1950s American cars and Harley Davidson bikes were also on display.

On the Sunday, it was announced that the festival would be back in Porthcawl next year.

One Cardiff-based trader told The GEM: "We see this as a chance to get a festival going in Wales. At the moment, we have to travel 100s of miles to similar events, so we are going to have a real go at building this up."

"We did well and, as a result, we came back for the Elvis Festival".



**ABOVE: Organiser Peter Phillips.**



**ABOVE: The Hicksville Bombers were top of the bill on the Friday night.**



**ABOVE: Rockabilly group Scribbleman, playing in the open air outside the Hi-Tide.**



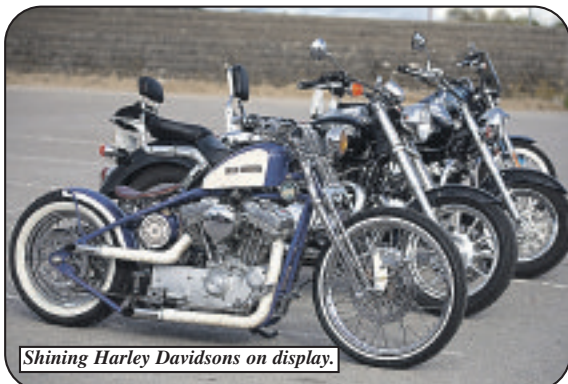
**ABOVE: Relaxing in the vintage tea rooms.**



**Railroad Bill's skiffle group.**



**ABOVE: Roller derby girls relaxing.**



**Shining Harley Davidsons on display.**



**ABOVE: A hula hoop masterclass is in full swing.**



**ABOVE: Foofoo Labelle (left) who gave burlesque masterclasses, with a fan.**



**ABOVE: Vocal group Mills and Boone were the first act on stage.**



# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**30th 'birthday' MEMBERS of the Tondy and District Art Society recently celebrated its 30th anniversary by having a special dinner in a local restaurant, at which there were 56 members and guests.**

The president and founder member, Jim Hayes, reminisced on why the society came into being: he and three other artist friends were disappointed when the night school art class they were attending at Omore Comprehensive School broke up early in November for the Christmas recess.

Jim suggested to the other three that they looked for a different venue, with the intention of forming an art society. They were offered a place in Ynysawdre Community Hall on a Tuesday night for a nominal rent.

It was decided to limit it to 25 members and the society has had a waiting list ever since.

Chairman Dr Gwyn Phillips thanked Jim Hayes and presented him with a framed portrait in pencil of the president, which had been drawn by the chairman, and also presented Jim's wife Winifred with a basket of flowers.

Since the initial exhibition, the society has held more than 80 exhibitions, with an exhibition being held at the Princess of Wales hospital this month.

Its winter exhibition will be held at its present venue of the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig from November 10-13.

There will be two

themes, 'Winter Memories' and '19th and 20th Century Transport in Wales' and the artist of the year shield will be voted for by the public.

The evening ended with a singer from Porthcawl, Jeff Phillips, singing a variety of old songs.

**Panto promotion**  
MAESTEG Amateur Operatic Society will be holding a fundraising and promotional bag packing day at Tesco, Maesteg, on Saturday, October 20, between 10am and 4pm, when the public can buy tickets for the pantomime *Cinderella* in Maesteg town hall from November 20-24.

For information about the show, telephone 07989 439629.

**Cancer Research**  
THE Maesteg branch of the charity will be holding a quiz night at Maesteg Harlequins RFC in Talbot Street on October 11 at 8pm for individuals or teams of no more than five people.

The event supports one of the charity's fundraising initiatives - 'Stand Up to Cancer', which will be transmitted on Channel 4 during October.

**Club recruits**  
WYNDHAM Boys and Girls Club is looking for boys and girls to join its under-eight and under-11 football teams.

**Choir call**  
BOIS Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Boys of Coytrahen and District) choir, which has only been in existence for a couple of years, has been invited to lead the hymn

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Harpist Lowri Foster-Davies.

singing at the wedding of Paul Edwards and Bethan Thomas at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, this Saturday, October 6, at 12 noon.

Anyone wishing to join the choir should go along to rehearsals on Sundays (6pm-8pm) at Philip Squire Community Centre, Coytrahen; or Tuesdays (7pm-9pm) at Aberkenfig Social and Athletic Club.

**Last rehearsal**  
CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir) which has been invited to Liberation ceremonies on its tour of Holland, will be holding a final rehearsal concert with musical director Paul

Deenik-Bradley and accompanist Laura Smith in the Catholic Church, Maesteg on Friday, October 5 at 7pm; tickets cost £5 and are available at the door.

**Carers' centre**  
BRIDGEND Carers' Centre is based at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479).

On October 9 the centre, in partnership with Bridgend CBC children's services, will host an event to advise on what services are available to support Bridgend's disabled children and their families between 10am and 3pm.

To book a place, phone Davina on the above number. On the

same day, volunteers from the Cruse Bereavement Support Group will be holding a forum to offer advice to carers between 10.30am and 12pm.

On October 10, the Community Café will be open for light refreshments between 12.30pm and 3.30pm.

This gives carers the opportunity to meet members of the staff and other carers.

**Annual concert**  
I ATTENDED  
Bridgend male choir's recent annual concert in St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend.

As one entered the reception area, two young lady harpists were playing a duet. They



Tondy artists Jim Hayes and wife, Dr Gwyn Phillips and wife, Tony Jones, Tudor James.



Dianne Morris from Tondy Art Society.



Scott Williams.

Rhiannon has also acquired a new deputy musical director in Stephanie Bailey, who conducted the choir through part of its repertoire, while Rhiannon accompanied them on the piano.

Laura Smith (piano) and Scott Williams (organist) both gave impeccable performances, while the choir were brilliant with their renditions of old and new pieces they have learnt with Rhiannon.

The talented guest soloist, soprano Elinor Rolfe Johnson, has a Russell Sheppard Trust vocal scholarship.

The trust was formed by the late John Jenkins and the Sheppard family in 1999 on the death of Russell Sheppard.

Elinor is studying for a masters degree in opera at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under Wilma Macdougall.

The choir rehearses in the Omore Labour Constituency Social Club in Bryntirion on Thursday evenings and seeks more young singers.

**Remembrance**  
MAESTEG town hall will be the venue for a special Royal British Legion Remembrance Day evening on Saturday, November 11, with music provided by CŌr Merched Cwm Llynfi, which will also be leading the singing at the Cenotaph in Maesteg on November 11.

## 'Buffs' are busy raising funds for local charities



ABOVE:

Members of local branches of the Maesteg and District Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) are raising money for charity. Roy Penny said that, as this year's Provincial Grand Primo of the Maesteg and District RAOB, it was part of his duties to nominate two charities, and he had chosen Alzheimer's UK and Diabetes UK.

He said: "I would like to thank Kevin Pope and Martin Oram of ASDA in Bridgend for their help on days when we have held collections there, and also the other RAOB lodges that have been involved. Our target is to raise £1,000. He added that the Pencoed RAOB lodge is putting on a charity show on November 16.

In the photograph (above) are Roy Penny, Jeff Davies, Victor Pugh, David Jones, Alison Roberts and Terry Gunning.

PHOTOGRAPH by MANDY THOMAS  
(www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)



ABOVE: The inspection party don hard hats and safety clothing.

## THE COUNTDOWN STARTS FOR A NEW 'WORLD CLASS' SCHOOL

THE count down has begun to the opening of a world-class school and community facility in Bridgend county borough.

The design for the £34m Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen has already received a five-star 'Outstanding' rating from sustainable building specialists BREEM.

The new school is currently being constructed in Tondy by the Leadbitter Group and will eventually replace the buildings currently occupied by Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, which were the former Omore and Ynysawdre comprehensives.

On schedule to open in September 2013, the new school will serve the catchment

area of Omore and Garw valleys, plus the valleys gateway areas of Bridgend county borough, and is set to be one of the finest, most sustainable school buildings in the UK.

And with just 12 months to go, members of Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet joined Omore AM Janice Gregory and chair of governors Dai Jenkins to view the work so far and hear more about the outstanding facilities it will offer to its pupils and the surrounding community, as well as the economic benefits it has already brought to the area.

Councillors were able to see how the school will not only offer an innovative learning environment but will also act as a community hub, which will give residents

access to a wide range of dedicated community facilities, child care provision and sports facilities.

Excess electricity generated by a combined heat and power system at the nearby Ynysawdre Sports Centre will also be channelled into the school.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "To see the school taking shape in this way is really exciting. We always knew that this would be a world-class facility but with just a year to go we can start to see the reality of our vision: to create a 21st century school which not only provides an amazing learning experience for the young people attending the school, but offers the community a wonderful facility to share.



# Is the Welsh Government doing enough to support our local businesses?

A SURVEY of small per cent of business to medium business owners believe that owners in the Vale, the Welsh Government is doing of the Leader of the enough to support Welsh Conservatives, small to medium sized has revealed just 6.9 enterprises in Wales.

## REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A total of 119 local businesses responded to the survey.

The Conservatives claimed almost 9 in 10 (87.1 per cent) said that more could be done by the Welsh Government to stimulate growth in the economy.

The Conservatives also claimed that 20 per cent of local businesses surveyed had been offered support by the Welsh Government, with more than a quarter of those who had (27 per cent) feeling that the experience was poor or

very poor. They say respondents felt the process of applying for business support was complicated by excessive red tape and bureaucracy.

Mr Davies said: "These alarming findings will concern a First Minister whose government already have a reputation for lethargy."

"Vale businesses are being let down by a lack of support from the Welsh Government, and by a system of support that is too complicated and overwhelmed by red tape and regulation."

Businesses were asked to describe their experiences applying to the Welsh Government for support, with 11.2 per cent of respondents having done so. A total of 61.6 per cent of those were happy with the support they were eventually offered, but many felt that the process was too complicated and time-consuming.

Several respondents complained of having to employ consultants to help with application forms, while one Penarth-based business complained that civil servants were doing "everything possible to tie you

up in red tape".

The survey also asked local businesses to outline what action they would like to see from the Welsh Government to stimulate growth in the local economy.

Of the 119 businesses who had responded by early September, 33 called for better access to grants and financial support; 21 wanted reduced red tape; 19 cited extending business rate relief as a top priority; and 16 called for better communication of existing packages of support.

Mr Davies said: "This feedback clearly demonstrates that the Welsh Government has the levers at its disposal to support businesses in the Vale through these difficult economic times, and underlines how important community engagement of this kind is."

"The Welsh Conservatives remain committed to abolishing business rates for all small businesses, slashing red tape, and to ensuring that Wales becomes a business friendly nation."

• The GEM contacted the Welsh Government which chose not to respond to the survey.

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## Spanish flights boost for Cardiff Airport

**HOT on the heels of the news from Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, that Cardiff Airport will be rebranded and refreshed ahead of the 2013 summer season, Vueling, Spain's leading low fare airline, has announced a new direct route between the Welsh capital and Malaga.**

It will commence on April 2 next year.

Vueling started operations from Cardiff earlier this year with direct flights to Barcelona, Palma and Alicante, operated by Airbus A320 aircraft for the summer season.

"We have been delighted with the success of our Cardiff routes," Vueling CEO Alex Cruz said.

"The introduction of Malaga to our Cardiff network underlines our faith in this regional airport and further demonstrates our commitment to deliver low fares in the UK beyond London."

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# Burglar is jailed after stealing from widow (75)

A BURGLAR who raided a house occupied by a 75-year-old widow, has been jailed for a total of 16 months, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Andrew Frampton, 30, was arrested after police officers discovered his fingerprints at the scene.

Frampton of Heol Glannant, Bettws, admitted a charge of burglary.

He was also in breach of a two-year community order for possessing blades and using threatening words and behavior.

## Report by AJ SICLUNA

He was told by judge Philip Richards: "This was a serious dwelling burglary."

Burglaries are not just attacks on property, but attacks on people, and they can have psychological effects."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that the woman occupied a three-bedroomed detached house in Brynmyn.

She went to bed on August 16 but at 3am,

was awakened by a dog barking.

Frampton had gone into the house through a window and stole keys, a mobile phone, a camera and a binocular case. He let himself out by opening a rear patio door.

"Fortunately, she did not see Frampton," said Mr Trigg.

He was arrested at the home of his mother and the property was recovered from a shed.

He told the police he had been walking from Neath to Bettws but on the way, he decided to burgle the house.

He was said to have convictions for 25 offences, including aggravated taking and driving away, theft and for supplying drugs.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, said: "He has had a history of self-harming. He was seen cutting himself by a member of the public, and the police were called."

He said he immediately admitted the burglary, didn't know the occupier, and was not aware that she lived alone.

"At the time, he was in an extremely emotional state. He was depressed. He has no history of burglary."

"The house was not targeted, but the offence was committed on the spur of the moment. He bitterly regrets his actions and wants apologise."

## Carers' event

BRIDGEND County Borough Council will be holding an information event for parents and carers of disabled children at Bridgend Carers' Centre on Tuesday, October 9, from 9.30am-1pm.

Parking is limited and only 50 spaces are available.

To book a place, contact Davina Marsland on 01656 658479. Lunch will be provided.

# Don't close good local school!

THE governing body of Bryntirion Junior School would like to publish its position statement, coupled with a comment reflecting its concern over what it believes is a flawed policy by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The school results show

that the school is, and has been, well above the Welsh national average in core subjects for a number of years.

This information suggests that children have been well taught, that their overall wellbeing has been a key factor in their schooling, and that smaller class sizes are key to success.

Regrettably, the BCBC long-term policy for education is one of merger and

closure of schools with a strategic philosophy of 'Bigger is Better', with efficiencies, savings and cut-backs both in staff and budgets.

It cannot be denied that smaller class sizes are better for pupils and teachers.

The governing body of Bryntirion Junior School vigorously refute the logic behind the policy of merger and closure, particularly in

this case, and is calling for a reappraisal, with a view to reversing the decision to close and merge with Llangwydd Junior School.

The governing body believes that we should all be striving to reduce class sizes across Wales and it should start here with Bryntirion Junior School.

Major Wayne B Morgan MBE (Governor)

## What kind of dog will choose you?



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sporty ones, haughty ones, fluffy ones and scruffy ones.

## Befriending in Bridgend

BRIDGEND People First and Mental Health Matters Wales is inviting local people to celebrate the launch of the 'Moving On' over-50s befriending project at Bridgend Resource Centre, Pictou Court, Bridgend.

It takes place on Friday, October 12, with registration and refreshments at 2.30pm before the 3pm start.

The event concludes at 4.45pm.

A spokesman explained: "Mental Health Matters Wales and Bridgend People

First are working in partnership.

"The aim is to provide a befriending project in the Bridgend county borough that supports older people over 50 years of age, who may be experiencing emotional or mental health-related disorders, or have a learning disability.

"The aim is also to access social, leisure, educational and back to work opportunities."

To book a free place or to find out more about the event call 01656 767045/679884 or email a i l : sara.langford@mhmwal.es.org.

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## Porthcawl Photographic Society hold chairman's annual trophy awards

THE Pyle and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual chairman's trophy competition on Thursday, September 27, at The Rest in Porthcawl.

The competition was for digital projected images and each member could enter up to four, which must have been taken during club activities, field trips and events.

This was a different type of competition to normal, as the club's chairperson, Glyn Edmunds, chooses the winner and only a minimal critique is provided.

The winner was Gail Evans with 'Evening Flight'. The runners up were Martin Derbyshire with 'Anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paw)', and Richard Craze with 'Plant', along with a second image called 'Edge of Bench' from Gail.

Congratulations to Gail for winning the competition and a big thank you to all who participated, for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GLYN EDMUNDS, Chair



Gail's winning entry – entitled 'Evening Flight'.



Gail Evans receives her winners' trophy from chairperson Glyn Edmunds.

### IN BRIEF

STACEY KENT and her musicians appear today (October 4) at 7.30pm in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Her awards include the British Jazz Award, BBC Jazz Award for best vocalist and album of the year.

### Lawson in Bridgend!

ON Wednesday October 10, Lawson will take to the stage in Bridgend College's Theatre at their Cowbridge Road campus.

Tickets are free and can be won by listening to Bridge FM, while 100 lucky Bridgend College students can win tickets through a competition run by Bridgend College Student Union.

## SHOPPING AREA'S NEW ARTWORK

A LOCAL poet and sculptor have combined to bring art to Bridgend town centre.

The public art was commissioned as part of the regeneration of Bridgend town centre and was unveiled at Cheapside last week.

A Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) spokeswoman said: "Following a call out for artists, a shortlist was selected and tasked to submit designs. The public were asked to provide their views on the proposed public art and, following this process, sculptor David Annand was appointed for the Cheapside Public Art Commission."

"David worked closely with local schoolchildren to inspire his art work. He also worked with Bridgend poet Rhian Edwards, whose poem has been engraved onto the sculptures."

Rhian's involvement in the project was mentioned by Cerys Matthews on her Radio 6 programme recently, as she recited a poem from Rhian's book *Clueless Dogs* which is published by Bridgend-based publisher Seren."

The unveiling was organised as part of the Open Doors programme, which sees Wales's most iconic buildings and unusual sites welcome thousands of visitors free of charge throughout the month of September.

The event included a short talk from the artist, explaining his inspiration behind the artwork, and a poetry recitation by Rhian Edwards.

Schoolchildren were also there to recite three



One of the statues.

poems selected through a competition set by Rhian. Coun David Sage, Deputy Leader of BCBC, said: "The unveiling of this public art work marks a new lease of life for this area of the town centre."

"Combined with the other improvements, such as new paving, street lighting and landscaping, it will certainly make for a more attractive environment. I hope it will encourage people to make more use of this route when they visit the town centre."

The Cheapside art-work project has been managed by BCBC, in partnership with Elbow Room Arts Agency, and is part of the wider Bridgend town centre regeneration programme, which is being funded by the Welsh Government, the European Regional Development Fund and BCBC.

Rhian Edwards said she was inspired by her pride in being from BCBC and wanted to ensure that the poems were specific to the area. She included references to its unique and diverse beauty, from sand dunes to castles, as well as referencing both urban and rural areas.

The two poems engraved onto the artworks are:

*Old Sitting Man*  
I am the earthless hourglass

*Spilling blankets over the dunes.*

*I am time's arrow that splinters,*

*Unpicking your castles to ruins.*

*I am the watchless keeper, a shepherd,*

*My crow's feet measured in lambing seasons.*

*I am the ancient town born of the Ogmore,*

*Unnavigable river ever looking seawards.*

*Young Standing Man*  
I am the confluence of time, ahead

*of myself, quondam, counting the seconds.*

*I am Chronos, the heart-beating hourglass,*

*Present continuous in attention.*

*I am past perfect in memory's reel,*

*A future tense with anticipation.*

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:  
1. Henry III  
2. The Great Gatsby  
3. Golden Miller  
4. Roy Welensky



Coun Marlene Thomas has a close look.



**COMMUNITY NEWS** from  
**KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**  
by **Richard Sims**  
Telephone: 01656 746840  
Mobile: 07802 439679  
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

### Wellbeing Pupils rewarded

ACTIVITIES held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, October 10 include a money advice workshop with the Citizens Advice Bureau from 1.30 pm to 3pm; let's get quizzical from 3pm to 4pm and arts and crafts with Bethan from 1pm to 5pm.

As it is World Mental Health Day, there will also be a social afternoon.

A CHARITY auction is being held by Scope on Friday, October 26, at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, at 7pm in aid of the Rees Centre, Kenfig Hill, where they are based.

They would like to invite members of the community along to have a fun evening at a great location, while at the same time supporting a local charity for disabled people.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

THERE has been an increase in vehicle crime in the area recently. Several vehicles have been broken into and items stolen have included laptop computers, mobile phones and even spare change.

The Neighbourhood Police Team advise that you make sure that your vehicle is left secure and that you do not leave any items on show.

**Llys Ton**

PLEASE note that the concert being held in Llys Ton on Wednesday, October 10, will feature the Maesteg Children's Choir, conducted by Sion Hughes.

It has now been confirmed that the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir will not be performing on that night; however, they will be appearing there on December 3.

For information regarding these concerts, contact Tricia Bailey on 01656 745666.

**Talbot Community Centre**

is aiming to raise cash from a media-based scheme. Contact the centre for details on 01656 749754.

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# HOSPITAL'S FUTURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even if two are chosen, it is expected that there will be a strong lobby from AMs and MPs near Merthyr for the Prince Charles hospital to be a regional centre.

Byron Davies, the Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, claimed that if the Princess of Wales does not become a regional centre, its A & E department will be downgraded to a minor injuries unit, the current doctor-led maternity unit will become a midwife-led unit, and the children's ward will go – to be replaced by a paediatric assessment unit.

Mr Davies said that it was an appalling scenario.

He said: "All of this is happening because the Welsh Labour Government, led by Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones, has decided to chop £534m from the health service in Wales over three years.

"I urge Carwyn to put his money where his mouth is and start fighting for the people of his own constituency – for the heart attack and stroke victims who will have to be ferried goodness knows how many extra miles before reaching hospital; for the mothers-to-be who face being taken by ambulance to other hospitals if complications occur when they are in labour; for the sick children who will be taken miles away if they need hospitalisation.

"How many lives will be lost because of the delays that these changes will cause in getting patients treated? The figure is incalculable.

"I shudder to think what the consequences will be."

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said: "It is early days and the document does not set out clearly which recommendation may be taken forward for A&E at the Princess of Wales.

"Myself and Janice Gregory, AM for Ogmore, will be keeping a close watch on developments, and encourage everybody to make their contribution to the consultation."

The Conservative Leader in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, who lives in the Vale, said he was concerned that any downgrading of services in Bridgend could affect constituents in the western Vale.

"I am extremely concerned at the idea that local patients could be forced to travel further for life-saving treatment. "Services should be organised with access for those in need a primary factor in any changes being considered.

"It is clear that for many patients in the Vale, the opposite will in fact be true.

He added: "Aneurin Bevan would be turning in his grave if he were witness to Labour's appalling mismanagement of the Welsh NHS."

Ogmore AM, Janice Gregory, said: "My priority is to ensure safe, sustainable services for my constituents in the future.

"I would urge everyone to contribute to this consultation so that the Health Board clearly understands the needs of our area."

A spokeswoman for ABMU Trust said: "Health boards across south Wales, including ABMU, have started a public dialogue about ideas to make NHS services safer, more reliable and better able to provide high quality care.

"As well as reviewing our own services through 'Changing for the Better', four health boards in south Wales have been jointly looking at some particularly fragile services through a clinician-led project called the South Wales programme – this includes emergency medicine, maternity and children's services.

"The NHS in Wales, and the rest of the UK, has a chronic shortage of doctors which is making some services very vulnerable. This isn't the only challenge facing us.

"The NHS is based on a 50-year-old blueprint not designed for today's healthcare demands.

"We have an increasing number of frail and elderly patients who need a lot of care. There are ever more people with long-term illnesses like diabetes.

"There are also major issues around unhealthy lifestyles. Too many people are overweight, smoke and drink too much. The NHS also faces huge financial pressures.

"So, we have to find ways to overcome these challenges. We can't afford to ignore them, or services could collapse.

"Over the past few months, over 300 senior clinicians (doctors, nurses, midwives, therapists) from across south Wales have worked together to put forward their suggestions as to how services can be safely and efficiently run.

"These ideas include having regional centres which provide 24/7 emergency medicine, consultant-led maternity and in-patient children's services.

"The majority of care would continue to be delivered locally, but we need to make better use of our staff, especially doctors. This means that sometimes, patients might need to travel a bit further.

"However, the trade-off is that they will see expert teams offering a safe and reliable service.

"No decisions have been made about where those regional centres would be; and we would like to stress that these are only ideas at the moment.

"We have recently started our engagement process to enable us to hear as many people's views as possible to help shape firm proposals.

"We are holding public information days across the ABMU area and encourage people to visit our website, www.changingforthebetter.org.uk where there is much more information.

"Early next year, we hope to take more detailed proposals to formal consultation."

# Mother walks free after appeal verdict

A mother jailed after her children complained to social services that she had smacked them, has been freed after a judge said her actions were no worse than those of "many loving and caring parents throughout the land."

The Vale mother had carried out "excessive chastisement" on four occasions on two of her sons over the space of seven years, London Criminal Appeal Court heard.

The woman was sentenced to 18 months by Judge David Wynn Morgan at Cardiff Crown Court on July 16, after pleading guilty to four counts of cruelty to a person under 16.

Appeal judges, Lord Justice Elias, Mr Justice Coulson and Mrs Justice Thirlwall, ordered she be freed.

Her barrister, Ruth Smith, told the court she was arrested after one son made a false allegation to social services that she had attacked him and caused him bruising. The child later admitted that was a lie he had told to get more contact with his estranged father.

During investigations, however, it came to light that she had slapped her son in the face during an argument in 2010, had banged two of her sons' heads together for fighting, and had also slapped two of her sons in 2003.

Lord Justice Elias said: "An offender must be sentenced only for what she has been found guilty of.

"We think that the premise of the sentence imposed by the judge was incorrect.

"If he had focused on the particular incidents, only one of which caused physical injury, while the others may be seen as chastisement going beyond its bounds, a sentence of 18 months was too long.

"We think the judge took his eye off the ball."

He concluded: "We think the right thing to do now would be to give her a sentence of five months imprisonment, that would secure her immediate release."

# 'Welfare changes must not hit service families' says Ogmore MP

THE Ogmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, is supporting the Royal British Legion's campaign to ensure that injured members of the Armed Forces and the spouses of people who have died in battle are not made worse off by the UK government's welfare changes.

He commented: "In the 2010 comprehensive spending review, the UK Government decided to abolish council tax benefit from 2013 and devolve council tax support to the Welsh Government.

"In the past, Welsh councils have disregarded compensation paid for injury, illness or loss as a result of serving in the Armed Forces when means testing council tax benefit.

"However, this could now be at risk, as funding from central government falls, and councils across Wales examine their budgets."

The MP and the Royal British Legion are calling on the Coalition Government



The MP with Peter Cole and members of the Garw Valley RBL.

to make sure that councils in Wales continue to support injured troops and widowed military spouses.

The Garw Valley British Legion is one of many local branches actively supporting injured servicemen and women and also the families of those killed in action.

Peter Cole of Garw

Valley RBL said: "As a national and local organisation for veterans, we support Huw's call for all local authorities to make sure things are not made worse by these welfare changes.

"Our servicemen and women who have been injured or given their lives serving their country, and their families,

should not lose out."

The Ogmore MP added: "Welsh councils have a good track record, so I am hopeful that local authorities throughout Wales will want to signal clearly that no-one will lose out because of these welfare changes. I have written directly to Ministers for their assurances."

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery this Saturday, October 6 at Barry CAB office, 1119 Broad Street from 10am-12 noon. No appointment.

## Weddings and flowers

'A WEDDING in the family' is the title of the demonstration to be given by Mr Adrian Cooke of Pembroke to members of the Barry Floral Society at their next meeting, to be held at the St Nicholas Hall, Barry, on Tuesday, October 9, commencing at 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

## Coffee morning

CADOXTON WI are holding a coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic offices, Barry on Tuesday October 9 from

10.30am-12 noon in aid of Ty Hapus.

There will be stalls and a raffle. Entrance is £1.50. Contact 01446 404891 for more information.

## Digital art

ON October 11, Cowbridge Art Society members Gerry Thurston and Mike Davies will give demonstrations on the creation of digital art using iPad and laptop computers.

The society for artists of all abilities meet at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Thursday evenings (7pm-9pm)/

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeart-society.com.

## Crystal clear

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church is holding a workshop on the introduction to crystals and gemstones with Robert Light, on October 13 at 10am.

Admission £15.

## Back to the '60s

FOLLOWING their successful concert of songs from the musicals of the 1950s in June, CAOS are now turning their attention to the 1960s for their annual autumn concert on October 12 at Llantwit Major Town Hall, October 13 at Cowbridge Town Hall, and October 14 at Highlight Park Community Hall in Barry (7.30pm).

Directed by a new young musical team, Sara Ghazi-Torbati and Ben Davies, it features songs from classic stage and screen musicals.

Tickets from 01446 773169 or society members.

## Jumble sale

THERE will be a jumble sale at Ysgol Maes Dyfan School on Friday, October 19 at 1.45pm-3pm. All proceeds will go to the school. Admission 20p.

## Comedy and live music for

ST ANDREWS Major Primary School PTA is presenting, for one night only, a comedy and live music night on Friday, October 19 at Dinas Powys Rugby Club.

The comedy line up is Liam Schewitz, Jordan Brookes, Matt Rees, Leroy Brito and Mathew Heard.

Live music is from

Calum Ross and the Scarlets.

A night not to be missed! The doors are open at 8pm and there's a raffle with cash prizes of £100, £50 and £25.

Tickets £10 from St Andrews Major Primary School office.

## Comedy and music night

ST ANDREWS Major Primary School is organising a comedy and live music night on Friday, October 19 at 8pm in Dinas Powys Rugby Club.

Tickets are available from the school.

## Band concert

TICKETS for RAF St Athan Voluntary Band's 74th annual concert go on sale this week.

The star-studded celebratory event takes place in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on Saturday, October 20 at 7.30pm and will feature the band, the Dowlais Male Voice Choir and special guest Stan Stennett.

Tickets £7 (£5 concessions), available from Chris Davies Estate Agents, East Street, Llantwit Major, or telephone 01446 798527 to reserve for collection on the door.

See the band's website rafstathanvoluntaryband.co.uk for further details.

## Charity lunch

ON October 20, the local committee of

## Collectors' fair

THERE will be an antique and collectors' fair on October 13-14 in the new luxury marquee at Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas.

The fair includes pottery, porcelain, silver, clocks, paintings and jewellery (including a rare silver Chester hallmarked 1906 'Iona' Celtic design brooch).

Entrance £1.50. Open 10am-4pm, free car parking.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Friday 12th October <b>Karaoke</b>	Saturday 27th October <b>Halloween</b>
Saturday 13th October <b>Mark Ritchie</b>	<b>Fancy Dress Party with 'The Unknowns'</b>
Friday 19th October <b>Dean Scott</b>	

**CHRISTMAS PARTY BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN**  
**Thursdays**  
**CURRY & A PINT £5.95**  
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 Saturday 12-3pm & 7pm-9pm  
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 \*\*\*\*\*

## PACT meetings

ST ATHAN PACT on Sunday, October 7 at the Gathering Place, St Athan, between 2pm-4pm.

BARUC PACT, October 14 from 3.30pm-5.15pm at Amherst Crescent, and then from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Marine Drive.

ST BRIDES PACT at St Brides Church Hall on Monday, October 15 at 6pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT at the Fire Station, Druids Green on Monday, October 15 at 7pm.

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## Cinema starts up in community

LLANCARFAN Community

Cinema's opening night screening of

*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* played to a full house recently.

The new nonprofit, volunteer-run monthly film club, which screens in Llanccarfan village hall, launched with an Indian-themed drinks reception. Such was demand, tickets had sold out days in advance of the event.

The next film in the programme (Friday, October 19) is *The Woman in Black* (12A), based on Susan Hill's best-selling novel and hit stage play. It follows the story of recently widowed lawyer Arthur Kipps (played by Daniel Radcliffe).

Doors open 7.15pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

Advance tickets are available by emailing llancarfancine@gmail.com, or direct from the Fox and Hounds pub, Llanccarfan.

## Vale artists put on Cardiff exhibition



Jane Hutt AM with artists Eileen Allen, Susan Roberts and Gwyn Price. FOUR members of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists, (VOGA) Gwyn Price, Eve Hart, Susan Roberts and who opened the exhibition Eileen Allen are exhibiting at the latest VOGA exhibition which is in Cardiff at the Oriel Canfas Gallery in Glamorgan Street near the Chapter Arts Centre. With the theme 'Seeing the Unseen' the exhibition enables artists to express this in many different ways. Vale AM Jane Hutt, who opened the exhibition described as "inspirational and intriguing". She said: "The exhibition is open until October 20, so head for the Oriel Canfas, Canton, and see the Vale Artists promoting their excellent work in our capital city."

## Guided tours return to Cosmeston village

COSMESTON Medieval Village near Penarth is again offering guided tours to the public.

They were cancelled earlier this year due to budget cuts, but a reorganisation of staff responsibilities means that they are available again from early October.

Tours will be available at the following fees: £3.50 adult guided tour (weekends only); £12 family (two adults and two children, weekends only); £3.50 adult audio tour 10am-4pm daily; £3 concession price for both; schools by arrangement; pre-booked parties (10 persons or over), daily; concessions £3, adults £3.50.

Coun Gwyn John, Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said: "Entry to the village is free of charge to the public if they just want to look around, but many visitors who want more from their visit can take up the option of an audio tour."

"These are suitable for all the family and are offered in Welsh and English, as well as French and German for our foreign visitors. The village has continued to offer pre-booked guided tours to schools and

interested clubs; these have been very successful with more and more bookings being taken throughout the year.

"Now, due to public demand, tours by costumed guides are reintroduced on weekends from early October. Initially, there will be two tours at 12 noon and 1.30pm; this will increase during school and public holidays."

Tracey Alexander, of the Cosmeston Medieval Village Trust, who have been looking to work with the Vale Council to help develop

the village, told The GEM that this was a step in the right direction.

She said: "We're delighted with the decision as this is one of the fundamental ideas we've had. We need to progress to the next stages of developing the village for the future."

"We are very, very pleased, and this contributes to the partnership we are trying to develop."

For enquiries, call: 029 20701678 or visit: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D742.

● **£2,000:** 363754.  
 ● **The rollover, which now stands at £8,500 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 753905, 614058, 612508, 443000, 948634, 810545, 935280, 562461, 342607, 801554, 353046, 599444, 815321, 832700, 707137, 419088, 724183, 869809, 275511, 867689.  
 ● **£5:** 158359, 248090, 513121, 352336, 715437, 767950, 707621, 557591, 550756, 393834, 487524, 270618, 270245, 752914, 578789, 751520,

822281, 175022, 103317, 656904, 810404, 792354, 211343, 868536, 346646, 742820, 552728, 765295, 342076, 235133, 757084, 216021, 469015, 253536, 725294, 353820, 586418, 728511, 837006, 741833, 339165, 719662, 543997, 375644, 710155, 696808, 685834, 815337, 786086, 383497, 655834, 746540, 705609, 235423, 597316, 589790, 710620, 672842, 568424, 778799.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.



# Looper strikes a blow for original, intelligent cinema

**FROM** his small-screen beginnings as Tommy in *Third Rock From The Sun*, Joseph Gordon Levitt has turned into quite the movie actor.

Gripping, independent fare such as *Mysterious Skin* has balanced out with quirky romantic comedy in *(500) Days Of Summer*, and even big budget blockbusters like *The Dark Knight Rises*, Levitt standing out in terms of his quality and dependability.

He re-teams with his *Brick* director Rian Johnson in *Looper*, where he plays Joe, a 'looper' who is employed to kill people sent back through time on behalf of the mob. However, when he is asked to kill his older self (played by Bruce Willis), it sets in motion a chain of events that threatens to change the future...

I'm doing the plot of *Looper* a disservice with the above synopsis, having pared down a dense and intricately constructed story into its most basic parts.

Fundamentally, it's a time-travel film with notions of fate and life, but penned and directed

by Rian Johnson, it becomes something even more satisfying and enjoyable – a film that manages to balance spectacle and story with a good dose of intelligence and, in a sea of adaptations and sequels, stands out with its individuality.

Johnson's previous forays on the big screen include the quirky *The Brothers Bloom* and the clever high-school-set noir of *Brick*, but while *Looper* has little in common with these films, tonally the hallmarks of Johnson are all over it.

The dialogue is sharply written, the plotting watertight. The complexities of time travel are well negotiated by Johnson, who manages to avoid nearly all the pitfalls that come with the genre and makes the story feel satisfying and engaging while never spoon feeding the viewer.

Visually, Johnson makes the step up seamlessly, giving the future a realistic, gritty sheen but throwing in little elements that evoke the sense of the future, while the dark, gloomy world looks beautiful yet dangerous. Johnson also handles the more spectacular scenes stylishly, giving another dimension to match the



by GARETH JAMIESON  
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@GEMScreenTalk

heavy narrative – Johnson really is on top form here.

Casting actors of the quality of Joseph Gordon Levitt and Bruce Willis certainly does the film no harm, the pair bringing out different facets of the same character while maintaining the integrity.

Levitt, wearing prosthetics that make him look closer to a younger Willis, captures the headstrong callow youth of Joe, whose life holds no importance beyond a fleeting affair with a stripper, his job and a low-level drug dependency. Willis manages to take on board Levitt's turn and add the sadness of opportunities missed and wrong decisions

made, coupled with an opportunity to change things for the better.

Both actors are on fine form here and deliver strong performances that sit well, while in supporting turns, the likes of Emily Blunt, Jeff Daniels, Paul Dano and, in a mesmerising turn, young Pierce Gagnon, all shine when required to in a superbly acted piece.

In an age of unoriginality, *Looper* stands out like a beacon, and with all the elements in place, delivers the goods. A film of substance and quality, *Looper* is one of the finest films of the year.

**VERDICT** – *Looper* is an example of Hollywood getting it right. Rian Johnson's originality and ingenuity makes for a mesmerising film that is only helped by excellent turns from the likes of Joseph Gordon Levitt, Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt, and cannot be lauded enough. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *In Time* (2011), *Donnie Darko* (2001)

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## Life is complicated, and so is death, warns Passmores

**P**ASSMORES has warned that dying intestate – without having written a will – can result in added difficulties for your family at a very sad time, and may also lead to unintended consequences.

Miss Carli Evans of Passmores said: "There are many misunderstandings about dying intestate."

"Everything doesn't necessarily pass automatically to your spouse."

"The laws vary depending on the deceased's family circumstances and the content of their estate."

"If you don't write a will, your property will be divided between your spouse, if you have one, and other family members, in accordance with strict rules – which may not be at all what you would have wanted."

"Many people have quite complicated family lives these days, and if you want to make sure that your property goes to the people you want to have it, you need to write a will."

The Law Society urges people to write a will, and points out that couples who are neither married nor in a civil partnership should make sure they have written a will, otherwise their partner will not benefit under the intestacy rules.

The president of the Law Society, Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said: "I know that many people assume that because they have lived together

for many years, they have certain rights to their partner's estate – and that if their partner dies, they will be treated the same way under the intestacy rules as married couples or those in a civil partnership."

"They won't... In order to receive a share in their partner's estate, they will need to go to court to make a claim."

"The easier option for cohabiting couples is to make a will beforehand."

The society has warned that anyone writing a will should use a solicitor and avoid the many unregulated will-writers who have hit the headlines

for shoddy work.

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff added: "Not only are will-writers unregulated, some are not properly insured, nor are they covered by the jurisdiction of the Legal Ombudsman."

"So your family will have no redress after you die, if it turns out that the will does not do what you wanted it to do."

Please contact Miss Carli Evans at Passmores, 21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB on 01446 721000, or by email: [ce@passmores.com](mailto:ce@passmores.com), for more information.



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## In Business Update

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



### HorseSolicitor

Introducing Trainee Solicitor **Hanna Campbell** Specialising in equine matters including personal injury, veterinary and solicitor negligence claims.

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E: [Hanna@HorseSolicitor.co.uk](mailto:Hanna@HorseSolicitor.co.uk)

## Welcome to our therapy open day

**W**ELCOME from us all at Penarth Natural Health Services to a therapy open day on October 13.

Since 2002, we have been providing professional health support through our diverse range of complementary therapies.

Our clinical practice has a well established expertise, including: homeopathy, hypnotherapy, podiatry, nutrition, sports massage, reflexology, stress management and allergy testing.

Different types of chiropractic and acupuncture treatments have long supported the community.

We are also busy pro-

viding counselling and psychotherapy sessions – looking at physical experiences in Gestalt psychotherapy and thinking patterns in cognitive behavioural therapy.

Our specialist treatment approaches complement conventional medicine in private and tranquil surroundings. We are committed to providing our very effective health enhancing treatments and invite you to learn and participate for your own health benefits.

Penarth Natural Health Services, 11 Bradenham Place, Penarth, CF64 2AG, telephone 02920 701370; or visit [info@penarthnaturalhealthservices.co.uk](http://info@penarthnaturalhealthservices.co.uk).

## IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH DAY SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER

at Penarth Natural Health Services  
11 Bradenham Place, Penarth CF64 2AG  
10am – 4pm  
TEL: 029 2070 1370

[www.penarthnaturalhealthservices.co.uk](http://www.penarthnaturalhealthservices.co.uk)

### Health concerns????

We invite you to come along and benefit from:

Taster sessions in:

Reiki & Reflexology - Nicola Hartwell - £5. (20 Minute Sessions)

Free!! - Feet health check - Tracy Gill, Chiropodist/Podiatrist.

Free!! - Spine checks - Emma Crane, Chiropractor.

Free!! - "An Introduction to Basic Self-Hypnosis & Relaxation Skills" - Alan Armstrong, Clinical Hypnotherapist - 1 hour course at 12.00.

Free!! - one to one informal chats with our therapists.

Free!! - An Introduction to Gestalt Psychotherapy - 45 min course at 1.00pm.

Free!! - Taster sessions in Allergy Testing with Applied Kinesiology Technique - Barbara Wardas.

£5 - Introductory sessions of Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture; "Heal by Ear" with Tracy Gill, 10 minute sessions.

Discounts of 20% on all new appointments made on the day.

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## Local solicitor is shortlisted for prestigious award

**T**RAINEE solicitor, Hanna Campbell, of Llantwit Major law firm HorseSolicitor, has been shortlisted in the category of 'Junior Lawyer of the Year' in this year's Law Society Excellence Awards.

HorseSolicitor is a niche law firm acting in equine matters including personal injury, veterinary and solicitor negligence claims.

The awards are open to all lawyers in Wales and England. Hanna (31) who lives and works in Llantwit Major was shortlisted into a category open to all solicitors (up to five years post qualification experience) and trainee solicitors in Wales and England. Many of those shortlisted are from some of the world's leading firms in London, highlighting the significance of Hanna's achievement.

Hanna reached the final stage after

developing her idea of a niche equine law firm (HorseSolicitor) which continues to grow and attract high profile work.

Such innovation, commitment and ability are qualities rarely exhibited by partners, let alone trainees. Hanna qualifies as a solicitor in March 2013.

She was nominated by her husband, Andrew Campbell, who runs Bikelawyer Motorcycle Accident Solicitors in Llantwit Major.

Andrew was shortlisted in the same awards in 2007 in the category of Solicitor of the Year.

Bikelawyer owns and manages HorseSolicitor. The firm, which was set up in 2009, currently employs five lawyers with a sixth joining in November.

It mainly deals with serious and catastrophic personal injury claims.

The winner will be announced at a black tie event in London on October 18

## Gentle exercise with a friendly group

**W**ILLOWS Tai Chi & Qi Gong class meets at St Francis Millennium Centre, Westward Rise, Barry.

We are a small, friendly group meeting twice weekly, some prefer the Thursday evening class – a good way to unwind after a hectic week, ready for the weekend – which for some is busier than the working week.

Others prefer a class in the day time so that they needn't come out in the dark winter nights. Either one pro-

vides very gentle exercise, which is done slowly and within the comfort level if each

individual.

We welcome you to join us for the autumn term.

**Willows Tai Chi & Qi Gong**  
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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# In Business Update

## True Relax can help ease stress

**F**EELING stressed? Tired? Can't sleep? True Relax is bringing its award-winning weekly relaxation classes to Llantwit Major, starting on Wednesday,

October 10, at 'Health Conscious'.

True Relax is the brainchild of Debbie Wildi – a stress management coach who has also been running Mini Relax and Teen Relax sessions for children in schools throughout Wales since 2009.

She holds one-to-one

True Relax sessions for adults, children and teens throughout south Wales. Now – due to high demand – is starting weekly adult classes in her home town of Llantwit, where she will teach you simple meditation methods that have been proven to help combat sleep problems,

anxiety and other stress symptoms.

Her classes have been hailed as 'An hour of pure tranquil bliss!'

To book, or for more info, please call Debbie on 01446 790397. For more info on True Relax (for adults), Mini Relax (for ages four-10) or Teen Relax (for ages 11-17) see

www.truerelax.co.uk or www.minirelax.co.uk



**Award Winning**  
**Relaxation / Meditation Classes**

Every Wednesday Starting 10th October  
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At Health Conscious, The Precinct, Llantwit Major CF61 1XA  
Call Debbie for more info 01446 790397

**Don't Forget a blanket & cushion**

## Gender move set to increase insurance premiums

**D**ANIEL THOMAS explains that from December 21 the EU Genderisation Directive will mean that men and

women will have to be treated equally by insurance companies.

This means that all types of insurance are set to be increased by 20 per cent or more. The

good news is that if you buy before this date you will be able to benefit from the cheapest insurance premiums available as all insurance companies are heavily competing for business before this date.

So, if you wish to look at new insurance or review existing insurance to save money you really need to act now.

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## Family business giving a professional service

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We also offer very fairly priced fuel solutions, which meet all the environmental regulations and are in line with our company ethics.

Why wait? Come and see us soon for a warm welcome and an even warmer home this winter.

'Thank you' to all our existing customers.

## The time to sort out your Will is now!

**A** WILL is often one of those things we all mean to 'sort out', but very often is left undone.

Nonetheless, it is a vital document to have in one place – to give peace of mind, to ensure that the people we want to benefit at the time of death actually benefit, to bequeath a legacy to a friend or charity.

Actually, making a Will is a very straightforward process.

Alternatively, you may already have made your Will but are wonder-

ing if it is still appropriate for your requirements. Perhaps you need to appoint guardians for your children, or you now have grandchildren, or you have recently benefited from a legacy yourself which may increase the value of your estate – or you may simply feel that your current Will no longer fulfils your wishes.

For advice or assistance on any of these matters, please contact Glamorgan Law LLP at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge, on 01446 771742.



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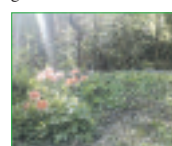
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## Food festival announces 'tweaks' to car parking

**P**REPARATIONS for the 2012 Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival on October 27 and 28 are well under way; and festival organisers have released details about the new parking and traffic arrangements for the weekend's events.

The Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival committee have acted on feedback provided by traders, visitors, exhibitors and residents.

A spokeswoman said: "Following comments that traders would benefit if visitors could alight the park and ride buses in the centre of town, the Vale Council has approved the use of the town centre bus stops on the High Street.

"It is hoped that this development will encourage more visitors into town centre shops, particularly if traders are offering special festival events or offers."

The timetable of buses will be clearly marked and will go every half hour from each of the stops.

The Park and Ride sites remain the same: Cowbridge School if travelling from Cardiff direction or Llwynhelig Farm, just off the A48 from the Bridgend direction.

The Park and Ride system remains free of charge for all to encourage as many to use this facility as possible.

The spokeswoman continued: "The committee has also responded to feedback that the town hall car park should be freed for visitors to the town."

"This year, the front right-hand section will no longer be used for demonstration vehicles, and the Vale Council has agreed this will be used as increased designated disabled parking for the duration of the festival."

"Exhibitors will now be directed to other parking sites and if they are

found to be parking in the town hall car park, the penalty will be that they won't be invited to attend in 2013."

Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival event manager, Polly Wilson, said: "Tweaks to parking and traffic arrangements are made annually to ensure the festival runs as smoothly as possible for everyone involved."

"We are hugely grateful to the Health Centre, who are providing extra exhibitor parking sites this year, as well as the wonderful Cowbridge Cricket Club, who marshal the public parking in all weathers every year."

"A big thank you to everyone involved."

For more information on events, exhibitors and entertainment, visit www.cowbridgefoodand-drink.org

## ASSAULT: Police appeal

**P**OLICE in Barry are appealing for information following an assault on High Street in the early hours of Saturday August 4.

The incident occurred at approximately 2am, when a 28-year-old man was assaulted by an unknown male on High Street, near the junction with St Paul's Avenue and Trinity Street.

A 25-year-old female and another 28-year-old man also sustained minor injuries during the incident.

Police are looking to trace the male shown in the CCTV images in connection with the assault.

Anyone who recognises the male, or anyone with further information regarding the incident, is asked to contact Barry Police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Jam sessions

**T**HE web design initiative Jam is encouraging community groups and charities in the Vale and Cardiff area to come along to its free website building workshop on October 11-12.

Workshops are being held in Cardiff city centre in St Mary's Street in the 'Our Digital Planet' internet station near Flares Nightclub and McDonalds from 10.30am-1.30pm.

No previous experience of web development is needed and learners will be supported to build their own website in just a few hours.

Funded by the Nominet Trust, a UK-registered charity which supports organisations that use the internet to create positive change, Jam has so far set up websites for everyone from running clubs to community choirs.

To find out more or book a place on a Jam workshop, please visit: <http://workshops.madewithjam.org>.



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## Last Vulcan takes to the air for flypast



GEM reader, Terry Verrinder, captured this glimpse of the last airworthy Vulcan bomber over Ffnon Castle, during a Vale flypast on Saturday.

## ORDAINED CURATES HAVE VARIED BACKGROUNDS

**CURATES serving in churches at Penarth, Llantrisant and Aberavon, were ordained as priests at a packed service in Llandaff Cathedral last week.**

They were Rev Dr Mark James Dimond, 44, assistant curate of All Saints Penarth, Rev Jonathan (Jon) Robert Ormrod, 49, assistant curate in the parish of Llantrisant, and Rev Benjamin (Ben) Thomas Rabjohns, 26, assistant curate in the Rectorial

Benefice of Aberavon.

They were ordained by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne. All three were ordained as deacons last year, and will continue to serve as assistant curates in their parishes.

Ben Rabjohns grew up in a vicarage where his father, Alan, served as vicar of St Saviour's Church, Roath, for more than 30 years.

Dr Mark Dimond worked as a university history lecturer in Cardiff before training for the ministry. He is married to Samantha and the couple have three school age children.

The son of a diplomat, Mark was born in Japan and has lived in many different countries, including Sweden, Czechoslovakia, France, Russia and Hungary. He has also worked as an examiner for the International Baccalaureate. His hobbies include walking and tennis.

Jonathan Ormrod is originally from Neath but worked as a stage manager for many years, including at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Birmingham Royal Ballet. He is married with two daughters, both at university.



PICTURED (from left) Ben Rabjohns, Jon Ormrod, Bishop David Wilbourne and Mark Dimond at Llandaff Cathedral.

## Penarth Computer Club news

**COMPUTERS can be frustrating on occasion.**

The hardware is very reliable, as are the software operating systems that control how everything works, but that is not to say they are perfect, but are much better than they used to be.

Except for one major component 'The User', which is you and me.

Clever people have designed systems to cope with most of whatever the user throws at it, but they cannot cover all the variations of human demands and expectations.

You could read the manuals, but it is rare to find one that speaks to you at a level you could understand. There are some that purport to be written for 'Dummies', but

you still need some basic knowledge to follow them.

Then there are training courses. You might find exactly what you are looking for and even scheduled to suit your diary. However, some find them too fast, some too slow; some with the wrong emphasis.

One of the most useful things to do in that direction is to develop good habits rather than poor ones. For example, if you install programmes from the web or from magazine disks, don't do it directly.

Create a folder in your documents folder named 'My Installs' or similar. Within that folder make a folder with a name to suit the software you are installing, perhaps the name of the programme or its purpose.

Then download the programme from the web or copy it from the magazine disc and put it into the prepared folder.

You are then in a position to install the programme by running the installation from the file already on your computer. The advantage is that if you ever need to reinstall it you do not have to find the original disc or remember where it came from on the web.

It is sitting in your 'Installs' folder. And of course it will be backed up somewhere, as a result of another good habit: making regular back-ups.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 9. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. For more information, visit the website at [penarthcomputerclub.co.uk](http://penarthcomputerclub.co.uk). HD



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**Public Viewing 9.30am until 13.00hrs, Saturday 6th October 2012. Online Auction Open Now for Registration & Bidding, First Lot Closes from 19.00hrs, 8th October 2012.**

**Lots to include:** 2002 Land Rover 90 Defender County in Black with Alloy Wheels, Ifor Williams 4 Wheeled Trailer with Side Board, Wire mesh Extension's and Ramps, 2000 Caterpillar DP15K 1500kg Diesel Fork Lift Truck, Pneumatic Wheeled Pallet Truck, Pneumatic Wheeled Sack Truck, Fork Lift Tipping Bucket Attachment, Selection of Peat & Compost, Large Quantity of Very High Quality Potted Shrubs & Trees as individual lots.

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**T**HE future of The Six Bells village pub and restaurant was assured recently when local publicans James Barnsley and Mark Tuck became the owners.

James and Mark had run it for more than four years under a lease arrangement, but taking ownership of it was the realisation of a dream.

James said: "Over the years, the pub has had landlord after landlord, but those days are over because we are here for many years to come."

Mark said: "We'd wanted to buy The Six Bells for so long. When it came up for sale, we were really encouraged by the support of local people."

"We've integrated into Penmark and when the sale went through, there was a feeling of elation."

A party was held to celebrate James and Mark's official take-over. Villagers and regulars from the surrounding area were thrilled that in an age when the 'Great British Pub' is under threat, one of the Vale's leading pub-restaurants had had its future secured.

James said: "More than 200 people - villagers, friends and family - turned up to celebrate with us."

Mark added: "People were so pleased when we got the pub that they sent cards, flowers and even bottles of champagne!"

So why are people so enthusiastic about The Six Bells?

In short: great food and great service.



The Six Bells - picturesque and in Penmark.

James and Mark welcome everyone personally.

When The GEM visited The Six Bells, some people were about to leave, one in a wheel chair, and James quickly volunteered: "I'll be the driver," and guided the wheel chair user carefully through the doors.

People are treated as people at The Six Bells - not just as 'the next customer'.

James and Mark source much of the food locally - they have their own allotments, so the vegetables are crisp and fresh - and much of the meat is from Wales.

James stressed: "We pride ourselves on our excellent traditional dishes and the fact that the dishes are home made - our chef David Williams has been with us for four years - and he has a real talent for tempting desserts which are his speciality!"

One of the most appealing aspects of The Six Bells is that it has two traditional, black-beamed, old country bars, complemented by a light, airy, modern renovation for the dining area and the function room.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 21



The dining room bar - where customers can order drinks before going through to the dining room.



ABOVE:  
The modern dining room area.



ABOVE:  
Mark (left) and James celebrated the acquisition of the pub with 200 family members, friends and regulars.

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## The Six Bells - Penmark



Family and corporate events are held in the function room with its own bar.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Last week, James and Mark hosted groups as diverse as Rhose WI and businessmen on a visit to Wales from the Far East – all drawn by The Six Bells' reputation.

Weekend roast meals are also a big draw for people in the Vale.

James said: "Sunday lunch is very popular and we advise people to book in advance to guarantee a table."

And with the festive season not far off, staff at The Six Bells are already making preparations.

Mark pointed out: "People can come in from this week and we can supply them with a Christmas menu – or they can ring up and we'll send one out."

The sentiments of villagers and local people at news of the take-over were exemplified by Sheila Griffiths, the churchwarden of St Mary's Church, which lies just across the road from the Six Bells Pub, who told The GEM:

"Congratulations and best wishes to James and Mark from all at St Mary's Church, Penmark, proud owners of the original 'six bells' in the village. Ring out the celebrations!"

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# South Wales Police join Tour De Forces on cycling challenge

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

AS reported in last week's GEM (September 27), 15 serving and retired officers from South Wales Police's Central BCU unit joined the 'Tour de Forces' cyclists on the Tenby-Porthcawl stretch of their cycling challenge around the British coast on Monday (October 1).

Tour de Forces are a team of British and American veterans raising much-needed funds for four charities – the Royal Marines Association, Blesma, the Royal British Legion and the Semper Fi Fund.

Team leader Paul Shearsby, former Royal Marine Mark Ormrod, a triple amputee of the Afghanistan conflict after an IED explosion on Christmas Eve 2007, former British Forces Lee Hollingsworth and former United States Marines Master Gunnery Sergeant Charles Padilla, make up the main team.

They are backed by sports therapist Stevie Budge and vehicle support driver Sean Aiken.

They departed from Plymouth on September 1 on a challenge that will take them more than 3,000 miles around the British coastline before finishing back in Plymouth this weekend. Monday's stretch of the journey was approximately 97 miles.

Chief Inspector Andy Morgan of Bridgend Police Station led the team of police officers, and he spoke of the pride of being able to help out such a worthy cause.

He told The GEM: "It was a fantastic day, although the weather was absolutely dreadful."

"We left around 8am and were expected to arrive at 6pm but actually made it by 2.30pm. The reception committee, headed by Coun Sean Aspy, changed their plans at very short notice to come meet us. It was a nice welcome for the Tour De Forces guys as some parts of the country have given very little physical support."

They were gobsmacked a reception was there."

Andy explained that it was former Royal Marine, PC David Rees, who had originally got the officers involved.

He added: "There's this attitude that once



A very relieved Tour De Forces team and Bridgend officers, finishing at the Royal Oak, Porthcawl, on Monday evening.

you're a Royal Marine, you're always a Royal Marine. Once he met Mark, their friendship was instant.

"He got people supporting us and when we'd see on-duty colleagues along the route they'd wave us on or stop and help us with busy junctions. When people see a police car they'll stop too, so the support was great."

"One officer, Andrew Westlake, had a problem with his bike and so he ran the last 13 miles or so. He's a very fit athlete who completed the Ironman Tenby challenge a few weeks ago. He took a bit of stick for that!"

Andy also spoke of the inspiration the team held for his officers.

He added: "Meeting Mark and the team was so inspiring, one of the most humbling days. What they're doing is so amazing. Paul is cycling every inch of the way and he just took it in his stride."

"We've been able to hand over more than £1,000 and we're still collecting. We're hoping to do this annually somewhere in the Forces' area."

"We want people who are brand new to cycling to take on this monumental challenge and raise some much-needed cash."

The Tour de Forces team were very grateful for the officers' support, using their Twitter account to post updates throughout the day.

## Music workshops

THE Society for the Traditional Instruments of Wales, known as 'Clera', has been holding workshops all over Wales since last March.

This Saturday, October 6, it is the turn of local musicians to enjoy learning traditional Welsh tunes.

The afternoon starts at 1pm at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major.

More information can be found on the Clera website: <http://www.sesiwn.com/sesiwn/workshops/Llantwit1.html>, or by calling Rob Bradshaw on 01446 790643. SK

## Courtney-Lee does Bridgend proud at Miss Teen GB finals

COURTNEY-LEE MORRIS, Miss Teen Bridgend 2012, has returned from the Miss Teen GB finals in Blackpool, and although she didn't place, she was delighted to come in the top 16.

The 17-year-old former Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari pupil was one of 65 girls competing for the national title after winning their regional finals.

She told The GEM how much she had enjoyed her weekend on the Fylde coast.

She said: "It was an amazing weekend, one to remember, and I will more than definitely be competing in many more!"

"I made loads of new friends and had such a fabulous experience. I would encourage any teenage girl to do a pageant, because it gives you so much confidence and a lot of good things come out of it."

The girls visited the famous Pleasure Beach on Saturday morning, and Courtney-Lee noted: "It was amazing, although very windy!"

On the Saturday night, a pyjama diva party took place, and this was a chance for everyone to become friends and practice for

the final. On the day of the final, Sunday September 30, they rehearsed all day, and the girls were then ready to take the stage for the grand final at The Globe Theatre.

Courtney-Lee added: "Everyone looked so glamorous in their dresses."

"Coming in the top 25 and then hearing my name being called in the top 16, was just fab!"

"Each pageant I do I'm just getting closer and closer every time, although pageants are not always about winning – it's about taking part. This pageant was amazing!"

"My sponsors, me:me's Beauty Salon in Maesteg, have been amazing! They pampered me before I left on the Friday morning. "I can't wait to do another pageant!"

Organiser Holly Ikin was thrilled with Courtney-Lee's participation, telling The GEM: "She really did fantastically, because it was the most difficult competition we've had."

"She's a lovely girl on the inside and the outside, and she contributed to a really fantastic and fun weekend."

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders



## NFU event at new office raises £220 for Macmillan nurses

First Minister Carwyn Jones, the AM for Bridgend (second right) is pictured at the coffee morning.



THE NFU Mutual office of Bridgend and the Vale held a Macmillan coffee morning at the new office on Friday, September 28, when many family and friends, work colleagues and neighbouring offices supported this worthy cause and more than £220 was raised.

Pam Harris, the organiser, also won a competition with local radio station

Bridge FM, who sent their DJ Lee Jukes along with some coffee from Ferraris, and spent some time talking to staff and recording live on air.

Mr and Mrs Carwyn Jones also popped into the office for a coffee and some cakes, spent some time talking to local farmers, and supporting a cause close to both their hearts.

Pam Harris thanked all who had supported this event, and "made it the great success that it was."



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## Anniversaries

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**on October 5th, 2012**  
*Congratulations and lots of love from all of the family xxx*

See more notices and classified ads, starting on page 27!

## Engagements

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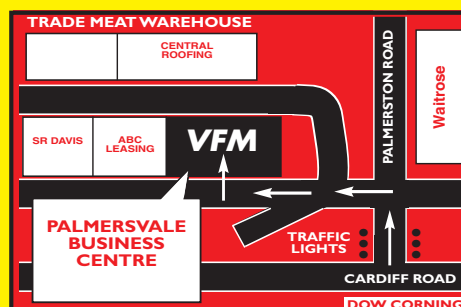
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# It's festival time in Porthcawl once again and the streets are alive with the sounds of Elvis!

Report and words by  
**FRANK SHIPTON**

Email: [frankshipton@mac.com](mailto:frankshipton@mac.com)  
Telephone: 07790 882925

**T**HE sun shone on Saturday for Porthcawl's Elvis Festival and a delighted Peter Phillips told The GEM: "I think that numbers were up overall. Sunday was a little bleak, but Saturday more than made up for that."

He revealed ambitious plans to expand the rockabilly festival, which took place the previous weekend, based at the Hi-Tide.

He said: "We were delighted with the way it went, and the plan is to have even more music next year at the Hi-Tide, while more events will be added, taking place in the Grand Pavilion."

The working title, he said, would be 'The Festival of the Bizarre', with burlesque artists, and adult cabaret and circus acts appearing in the pavilion.

He said: "Shows there would feature the sort of acts that perform at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe."

This would mean that Porthcawl would have two popular festivals over the last two weekends of the summer season.



ABOVE: Even the police cars were vintage!



ABOVE:  
Dave Riley, singing on Porthcawl prom.



Pictured with Owen Money at the Hi-Tide are a couple who were renewing their wedding vows.



ABOVE: A young Elvis with Owen Money.



ABOVE: Fans enjoying an Elvis breakfast.





# Six goal thriller sees University bag share of the points against Llantwit Major AFC

**LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC welcomed the joint league leaders Cardiff Metropolitan University FC to their Windmill Lane ground on a bright and breezy afternoon in the Vale.**

The Major kicked off with the stiff breeze behind them and both sides needed time to settle down.

It was the visitors who had the first chance at goal following some neat play down the left side with the winger making a good cross and the centre forward striking a good shot that was well saved by Luke Vincent in the Llantwit goal and cleared by the

Major defence.

On 20 minutes it was the home side who nearly scored following some good possession and interplay in mid-field culminating in Tom Rees making a good left footed cross which was headed over the bar by Lee Jones.

The Major started to take control of the mid-field and soon won a corner which was taken by Pratt, but it was over-hit and went out of play.

On 30 minutes Robinson struck a long free-kick which drifted in the strong wind and the visiting keeper Fuller at full stretch just managed to tip the ball over the bar for another corner.

Again taken by Pratt, the corner kick found Robinson unmarked at the far post but his shot was struck well over the bar from what was a good scoring position.

The visitors then had a chance of their own when the left winger, unchallenged, played a neat ball through and the visiting centre forward struck a neat and powerful shot to take the lead at a time in the game when the Major were on top.

Before half-time the Major had another chance when Pratt chased a ball down the left wing. Cutting inside, he beat the defender and crossed well for leading scorer

Sean Nash to turn and fire in.

The visitors kicked off and were immediately on the attack but the through ball was easily cut out by full-back Gould.

However, not for the first time, he immediately gave the ball away too easily and the visitors had a great shot at goal which was, fortunately, just wide of the post.

The Major were back on the attack, the ball going out left to the industrious Tom Rees. He controlled well and made a powerful cross which was caught by the swirling wind and beat the keeper's outstretched arms. That made it 2-1 at half time.

The Major started well in the second half, playing into the strong breeze and Lindsay had two good chances: the first with a shot and the second a header, both saved by Fuller playing well in the visitors goal.

Fifteen minutes into the second half the visitors were playing good football and in particular the midfield were retaining possession well; this led to a neat ball out left were the winger cut inside and struck a great shot that was just wide.

On 25 minutes the Major broke clear again with a great midfield pass finding Lindsay out right. He controlled the ball well and then

had a quick choice to either shoot from a tight angle or pass square. He took the unselfish option and passed accurately to Lee Jones who tapped in at the far post.

The Major were now 3-1 up and with just 15 minutes to go should have retained the ball, making the visitors work hard for their share of possession. However, that was not the case and time after time Llantwit gave the ball away and the visitors were not giving up on this game.

From another poor pass out from the home defence, the visitors scored a great goal giving Luke Vincent no chance.

The Major made some substitutions with midfielders Lindsay and Morgan going off to be replaced by Faux and Dawes.

Both teams were now battling well for the ball but it was the visitors who showed the Major how to win and retain possession and in the last few minutes of the game they equalised following another defensive error with the Cardiff Met unmarked midfielder striking an absolute beauty into the top corner from 20 yards out.

This is a game the Major should have won had they taken their chances and, more importantly, retained possession at crucial

times in the game. The visitors were well worthy of their point away from home.

*Llantwit Major AFC squad: L Vincent, Shaw, Cox, Robinson, Gould, Rees, Pratt, Morgan, Jones, Lindsay, Nash, A Vincent, Faux, Dawes, Constant. Team manager: Tim Watts.*

The Major's next three fixtures are all away from home starting next Saturday at Treharris Athletic, kick off 2.30pm. **PL**

## Tondu slip up

**ON Sunday, Tondu under-13s entertained Bridgend Athletic under-13s.**

At half-time the score was 0-17 to Bridgend Athletic.

In the second half Tondu managed only one try from B Rich; after that it was all downhill, with the Ath scoring at will.

Tondu's players have to be more physical at the breakdown, and must tackle the opposition when they are in possession.

**Final score: Tondu under-13 5, Bridgend Athletic under-13 50.**

## Under-10s run close

**PENCOED RFC UNDER-10S 35 TONYREFAIL RFC UNDER-10S 40**

**AS the scoreline suggests, this was a fairly even contest. Tries for Pencoed came from Josh May, Morgan Hopkins, Jack Evans (two) Sam Hayman-Tucker (three).**

**TR**

# Loss for Bridgend Athletic youth

**BRIDGEND Athletic Youth travelled to Kenfig Hill for this second league fixture of the 2012/13 season.**

As expected the game was very close with the Athletic succumbing to a disappointing 13-10 loss.

Kenfig Hill had first use of a strong wind and took the lead after five minutes with a penalty making the score 3-0.

The Athletic continued to take the game to their opponents and this pressure paid off after some 18 minutes when a penalty was awarded and Scott Govan duly took the points, making the score 3-3.

To their credit Kenfig Hill used the very strong wind wisely to keep the Athletic pinned in their own half for long periods and it was only through some superb defence from the Athletic back row of Ashley Adams, Lloyd Wilson and Rory Thomas, as well as backs Chris Price and Tom Jenkins, that the score remained at 3-3.

The Athletic would not be contained however, and after some excellent forward drives saw second row forward Lloyd Griffiths score the game's first try just before half-time. Scott Govan kicked the conversion from out wide to make the half-time score 10-3 to the Athletic.

The Athletic began the second half as they ended the first with some hard running by the backs, particularly Chris Price, who pounded the Kenfig Hill line only to see three or four scoring passes going to ground.

Unfortunately, No8 Rory Thomas sustained a shoulder injury and had to be replaced within minutes, Ellis James coming on for him.

The Athletic did not use the wind advantage as well as their opponents, who continued to pressure the Athletic for long periods. This eventually led to a penalty which was slotted by Kenfig Hill to take the score to 10-6.

Kenfig Hill continued to press but the Athletic defended bravely to hold their opponents out until 10 minutes from time

when the big Kenfig Hill backs put together a superb move to cross under the posts for their first try, which was converted, taking the score to 13-10.

A number of injuries meant some changes in the backs with Jack Evans and Liam Phillips taking up both wings and Ryan Hemburrow coming on at scrum half.

The Athletic would not lie down however and with minutes to go, found themselves well into their opponents territory.

A lightning quick break from Jack Evans took play towards the Kenfig Hill line and No7 and Captain Lloyd Wilson was on hand to cross the line.

The pass was, however, deemed forward and the try disallowed.

This was virtually the last play of the game and the final score remained a frustrating 13-10 to Kenfig Hill.

While a loss, the coaching staff felt the players had again stepped up to the mark with some excellent performances.

**MP**

# Druids maintain their 100 per cent record

**LLANTWIT MAJOR Druids welcomed Bridgend Sports Second team to the Rec with the visitors clearly intent on taking the Druids' 100% per cent record.**

The pre-match discussion with the Druids had been all about improving discipline on the field and starting with a bang from the first whistle.

The Druids delivered with two spectacular tries from young captain Stephen Howells following phases of fantastic passing between backs and forwards in the opening 15 minutes.

With a converted try and penalty on the board for the Sports, the final minutes of the half saw resolute defence from

the Druids with the home side finally conceding a converted try after a brutal battering by the Sports.

The Druids' heads were held high and there was a feeling that the Sports and given their best.

This was truly going to be a game of two halves and the Druids blew the visitors away in the second half with scintillating play from forwards and backs.

Some 36 points without reply in the second half with tries from Solomon Mole, Josh Austin, Fijian Dan Farrell, Damian Pontin Gardner, Jack Austin brother of Josh in his first senior game for the club, and four conversions and a penalty from David Spargo playing solidly at scrum half

*Subs: Matthew Young, Paul Gore, David St Clair, Vuli, Mark Jones, Rhys Ellis, Bryn McNaughton, Ieuan Rees.*

**BG**

## Bridgend salvage a good draw

**BRIDGEND A's chess team earned a draw in their second round match in Division 2 East League against Caerphilly.**

C Howells and M Cleaves on top boards fought hard but were outplayed in the end.

N Stuart on board three managed to draw, but both M Kearn and R Rees ground out wins to draw the match, 2.5-2.5. **MK**

## Porthcawl under-13s' fine win

**A SHAKY first 10 minutes from Porthcawl under-13s saw the youngsters of Ystrad take a well-deserved seven-point lead, after a succession of rucks and mauls enabled the Blues to eventually crash over the Seaweeds' line.**

This early set-back seemed to rally the green and blacks and after gaining a number of good field positions and putting the Rhondda side under some con-

certed pressure, Brandon Cooper charged over for Porthcawl's first try.

Brandon converted his own try and now the Seaweeds looked as if they could push on and underline their superiority.

Ystrad, unfortunately for Porthcawl, had designs of their own on how they were going to overcome the mounting pressure from the boys.

The larger Ystrad pack, started to 'pick and go' their way toward the Seaweeds' line. After a number of infringements, the visiting backs were penalised for off-side and Ystrad awarded

a penalty. Surprisingly, they decided to kick for goal rather than go for a quick tap to one of their big forwards. This made the score 10-7 to the home side with Ystrad in the ascendancy.

We should have learned, over the last four seasons, never to write this set of boys off and they didn't fail to disappoint yet again with an outstanding team try, finished off by Louis Protheroe in the corner. Half-time couldn't come quickly enough for the Valley boys with the score standing at 10-12.

The second half continued in much the same vein with firstly Ystrad taking charge and Porthcawl clearing their lines with some outstanding touch finders from Brandon Cooper.

Then the Seaweeds mounted some pressure of their own with fine forward displays from Max Budding, Ben Collins, Kurtis Pridmore, Lloyd

Mortimer, Tom Davies, Anthony Burnell, Jac Flanagan and Louis Protheroe.

This pressure, along with supreme fitness, eventually told with Bevan Howells' kick and chase to score under the posts.

Porthcawl's backs also started to click with wingers Joe Stradling, Iestyn Raven and Callum Morgan all coming close to scoring. Dan Williams and Harry Evans worked well in the midfield and Ben Roach, at scrum half, was his usual reliable self.

But the Ystrad heads had visibly dropped after they conceded the third try and they didn't really look like scoring again themselves.

Another fine win for Porthcawl under-13s, with Brandon Cooper voted man of the match.

**Final score: Ystrad Rhondda 10, Porthcawl 19.**

**IAN BUDDING**

## Pencoed under-10s results

**PENCOED under-10s/Bridgend Athletic tournament:**

Bridgend Athletic 0, Pencoed 15 (try scorers Sam Hayman Tucker, Luis Gomez, Morgan Hopkins).

Pencoed 15 Barry 30 (try scorers Sam Hayman Tucker (two) Callum Podmore).

Pencoed 0 Penarth 20 (only one half played due to bad weather, tournament then abandoned).

## Ath under-11s in tournament action

**THE Bridgend Athletic Tournament kicked off in atrocious conditions at Newbridge Fields.**

The weather didn't dampen the team's spirits or the quality of rugby on display.

First up for the Bridgend Athletic under-11s were local rivals, Bridgend Sports. There were strong performances from Emyr Anthony, Liam Gully, George Tellum, Sam Stradling, Tom Jones and Josh Llewelyn.

Try scorers were Jules Burn, Kieran Richards, Jack Pitts and Dewi Harding as Sports were beaten 20-5.

Next up for the Ath were Swansea Uplands, and as the conditions worsened, both teams

should be applauded for trying to play fast, open rugby.

Jack Pitts and Mason Hughes set the standard up front and great defence came from Morgan Bennett, Owen Thomas and Bobby Bromley. Mason Edwards and Isaac Watkins worked well as halfbacks with Oli Raynor and Wil Thomas showing good pace as he scored.

**Final score: 5-5.** Next were Rumney who started well, a last gasp tackle from Mason Hughes stopped the try.

Josh Llewelyn, Emyr Anthony and Tom Jones pushed forward with good defence from Dewi Harding and Sam Stradling.

Jack Pitts drove the Ath upfield, Liam Gully continued the

charge linking well with Josh Llewelyn but again, physical defence from Rumney kept the Ath out.

The Ath defence worked hard through Mason Hughes and Kieran Richards with Wil Thomas and Stradling making hard yards.

Quick hands saw Emyr Anthony run for the line but again, solid defending stopped him just short. Next phase saw Morgan Bennett kick into space, a great chase from Gully, Anthony and Harding pressured well.

**Final score: 0-0.**

A massive thank you to Specavers for sponsoring the event and those who made it a huge success.



# Late show denies Pencoed the win

For the third time this season Pencoed somehow missed out on maximum match points, as Neath Athletic drew level with the last kick of the match.

Pencoed opened well, a Richie Samuel break putting them on the offensive, before outside half Marc Davies capitalised with a penalty goal.

Following a break from centre Scott Narbeth, Pencoed increased their lead, good hands putting prop Nicky Hawkins in for a front row union's 30 metre special.

Neath Athletic hit back immediately, centre Andrew Price cutting through at the posts from 22 metres, Dan Guarneri adding the conversion. Shortly after Guarneri added a drop goal for the home side to lead 10-8.

Pencoed second row Chris John then pinched a home throw, before Narbeth broke in mid-field, and good support play from the Pencoed pack saw back row for-

ward Paul Macfarlane drive over for his side to lead 13-10 at the break.

The second half started with a replacement referee and it was young John who caught the eye with a number of aggressive hits.

Pencoed then camped in the home 22, and after destroying the home scrum, repeated the dose for No8 Gareth Prentice to touch down.

As has happened a number of times to date this season Pencoed conceded a soft try from the restart, the home side running the kick back, past a number of players to score.

Neath Athletic took the lead for the second time in the match at 22-18 scoring their third try. Pencoed then regained the lead, their pack getting a second pushover try through Prentice, this a valuable try bonus point.

Davies added two penalties for Pencoed to lead 29-22 and with the pack totally on top looked to have the match won. Unfortunately in the closing moments with a lineout forming the match official

allowed the home side to continue play and Pencoed were caught out, and centre Price crossed for his second try despite a despairing tackle from hard working flanker Rhys Samuel.

Guarneri converted, much to Pencoed's frustration. Pencoed will reflect on a match they dominated through their pack for long periods, however once again conceded four tries and must address their defensive responsibilities in broken play.

For Pencoed Chris John was deservedly chosen as man of the match, and the emergent ex-Pencoed youth player looks to have a bright future given his impressive early senior career performances.

On Saturday Pencoed host Resolven in Division 3 South West at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

**NANTYMOEL  
2ND XV 12  
PENCOED 2ND  
XV 8**

The Pencoed pack were on top for the opening thirty minutes,

unfortunately the team were unable to take the chances created, and this proved to be their undoing.

A change in the home front row made a difference for the home side and with Pencoed going down to thirteen players during the second half Nantymoel just edged matters.

For Pencoed Ieuan Watkins was the try scorer, with Ben Read adding a penalty goal. Chris Howells, returning from injury, was Pencoed's outstanding player. On Saturday the 2nd XV meet Nantymoel away in the Mid Glamorgan District Cup.

TR

# Rest Bay nippers impress in Pembrokeshire



The nipper girls show their devotion to Olympic hero Mo Farah by doing the 'Mobot' to celebrate.



The boys, on the other hand, find their loyalties divided between Mo Farah and Jamaican sprinting legend Usain Bolt.



**THE nipper section of Rest Bay Surf Lifesaving Club travelled to Pembrokeshire to attend the Porthmawr Surf LC Carnival held at Whitesands Bay, St Davids.**

The event was blessed with sunshine all day and the young trainee lifesavers competed in events designed to improve their water skills, safety awareness and to prepare them for Junior lifesaving.

Rest Bay boys and girls achieved gold, silver and bronze medals in events throughout the day-long festival.

After a full day of events, Rest Bay SLC accumulated the greatest number of club points and were announced as overall club winners.

Dave Williams

# Porthcawl trounce Tonna to top the league



Captain Matthew Owen on the charge with Rhys Jones in support. Photography by TRACEY WILLIAMS.

<b>PORTHCAWL RFC</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>TONNA RFC</b>	<b>15</b>

**THE Seaweeds soared to the top of the league with a comprehensive win over Tonna.**

With the home pack providing a wealth of first half possession, the home side cruised into a huge lead, as Dai James notched yet another try. He has scored in every match to date.

He was followed to the try-line by hooker Ross Bloomfield, his first try in senior rugby, and centres Rhys Jones and Steve Phillips. The four tries, a conversion and two penalties from the boot of skipper Matthew Owen provided 28 points to Tonna's solitary score in reply, a try from Nick Thomas.

The second half was a more even affair in terms of points scored, with Phillips grabbing his second after the break, converted by Owen for 35-5 before Jason Evans snatched back a try for the visitors for 35-10.

Tonna's unwillingness to go down without a fight brought a fleeting ray of hope as Ryan Freeman grabbed their third unconverted try for

35-15 but it was all to little effect as home lock Richard Hnyda snapped up a deserved try, which was just reward for his work-rate in both tight and loose. Owen couldn't convert, but 40-15 was a just reflection of the Seaweeds' control throughout the match.

Prop Ben Price gave his opposite number a torrid time at the scrums, whilst Lloyd Long was again outstanding at his all-round game.

Player coach Mat Roberts kept everything ticking over at scrum-half before giving way to Gareth Edwards, while substitute lock Ian O'Keefe produced the tackle of the season, leaving his opposite number wondering what time of day it was.

Coach Blair Driscoll is seeing his side take good shape now and a week's rest will give a welcome respite after a great opening month.

That said, no-one is taking next opponents Blaengarw for granted as Porthcawl head north up the valley on Saturday, October 6.

PF

# Talygarn Vaulters' successful debut



The Talygarn Vaulters earned three wins and a third place in their debut competition.

# DISABLED TEAM NEEDS LOCAL HELP

**BRIDGEND Disabled Football Club has received a grant from BAVO in Maesteg to help the team with new kits and training equipment.**

Manager Kelly Hall said: "This grant will help my club so much, as it is costing a lot of money to run the team, especially when there is no financial help out there.

"The new kits have come at the right time, as I have entered two teams into the 'Bibby Maritime

North West Ability Counts League" in Preston, starting next month.

"The teams will be up against Liverpool, Everton, Preston and many more in this seven-a-side league.

"As a warm-up for this league, we have also a team playing in the Bridgend Wednesday five-a-side mainstream league, where we are holding our own.

She added: "If there is anyone out there who would like to help us, please contact me on 07880749903."

**IT was a successful competition debut for the Talygarn Vaulters at the recent British Vaulting Championships in Hull, where they took three wins out of five classes.**

The group were only established in February and are the only BEV vaulting group in south Wales.

The current age range is seven-19 years. None of the children had any previous experience in equestrian vaulting.

The squad won the walk team event and had two wins in the individual classes and a third place.

More photos are available at the club's website: <http://www.talygarnec.co.uk/Gallery.php>.

CR

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**MARSHALLSEA Gurwin**  
Passed away peacefully at home on 27th September 2012. Dearly beloved husband of Denny, devoted father of Nicola, Andrea and David, loved father-in-law of Martin, David and Naomi, adored grandfather of Sam, Ben, Christopher and Chelsea.  
Gurwin was well known in the local area and indeed further afield as a loved and respected minister who served his community for over 31 years.  
Service will be held at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Barry on: **Tuesday 9th October at 2pm**  
The family would like to thank the medical and nursing staff of Marie Curie, the District Nursing Team, Velindre Hospital, the Vale of Glamorgan Social Services and G J Care who provided such wonderful care for Gurwin and tremendous support for the family.  
Special and sincere thanks to Pastor Mike Holmes, the congregation of Coastlands Family Church, family, friends and neighbours who have provided both practical and emotional support over many months - this has truly been appreciated.  
Our gratitude also to Arthur Thompson and staff of A G Adams & Sons for their professional and personal service to Gurwin who was a personal friend and colleague.  
No flowers by request. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care - facilities to do so will be provided at the service.  
**A GREAT MAN HAS GONE TO BE WITH HIS GREAT GOD**

**BROOKMAN Mary Elizabeth**  
Passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital on Tuesday 25th September.  
Her funeral service will be held at Ramoth United Reformed Church on Monday October 8 at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.  
Family flowers only please, but donations may be made to Velindre Fundraising or the Dogs Trust.

**JEFFERY Enid (Nin)**  
Bravely passed away at Llandough Hospital on September 30th, aged 84 years surrounded by her loving family. Much loved mother, grandmother, sister and auntie, will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.  
Funeral service at Windsor Road United Reform Church at 12.15pm on Friday, October 12th, followed by service at The Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium at 1.15pm.  
Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Dementia UK. Enquiries to David Brown, Park Funeral Directors Limited, 01446 421212.

**Forster Brown Mark**  
Suddenly on September 28 at Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Mark of Llansannor, beloved husband of Patricia, dearly loved father of James, Chris and Jess, loving grandfather of Zoe, Keira, Lloyd and Millie.  
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Monday October 8. Service and interment 11.30am at Llansannor Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People, c/o JW James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

**GEORGE Megan**  
Passed away on the 22nd September at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Megan of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Bruce. Much loved mother of Christine, Robert and John, loving Nana and great Nan. Dearly loved partner of Bill and loving sister of Keith.  
Megan will be sadly missed all her family and friends.  
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service at 2.00pm on Monday 8th October in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.  
Family flowers only but donations if desired may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

**JENKINS Kath**  
Peacefully on 30th September 2012, Kath, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother will be sadly missed by all.  
Funeral Service Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 12th October 2012 at 11am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to the British Heart Foundation.

**THOMAS**  
Peacefully at home on September 27th. Joyce, loving wife of Bert, loving mother of Alana and Patricia, resting at the private funeral home of Thomas Brothers until the funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on **Tuesday, October 9th at 11am.**  
Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB, no mourning please.

## Birthdays

**Happy Birthday Victoria Patuto**  
**11 years old on 4th October**  
Lots of love from all your family and friends  
x x x

**Happy 18th Birthday Nathan Peters**  
**on 6th October**  
Lots of Love & Hugs  
Nannie, Uncle Dan & Pete x x x x  
PS: You can buy me a drink now!

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# Lifeguards are the masters at Championships!



**IN a not so sunny week, Llantwit Major SLSC went down to Portreath in Cornwall to compete in the British Championships.**

Not only did they enter a nipper and junior team, but for the first time in many years they had a masters team – this is for the 30+ age group, so not actually as old as it sounds!

The masters competed over the first two days with the team consisting of veterans Steph Robinson and Simon Osborne, those that had never competed in a lifeguard event before: Andy Wiggins, Leighton Simes, Andrew Mitchem, Jen Pitt, Elsa Mitchem, Ceri Goldby, Ben Bennett and those that were returning after many years away: Vicki Wiggins and Natalie McDonough.

*They took gold in the men's relay – Simon Osborne, Andy Wiggins and Leighton Simes. Simon went on to take gold in the flags and long run, silver in the sprint and sixth in the swim.*

Steph Robinson put in a sterling performance, getting second in the ski, fourth in long run and fourth in the board, also with her partner in crime Vicki Wiggins getting second in double ski and third in board rescue.

Andy Wiggins and Andrew Mitchem both got into the finals of their sprints, while Leighton Simes, who was also in with a good chance, had a little hiccup on the start line, and hence wasn't allowed to run.

Ceri Goldby, in her first competition, got a brilliant fifth in long run, eighth in flags and ninth in sprint. Elsa Mitchem got sixth in flags, and Jen Pitt competed in the sprints and went on to get a fifth in the relay. Ben Bennett and Simon Osborne did the board rescue for the first time and conquered the surf and came out the other end in one piece.

The juniors and nippers also had a some great results. There are normally 50-60 competitors in each event so the kids have to do the event twice and sometimes three times and just to get through to a final is an amazing achievement.

We had two medals with the juniors – Tam Pitt got silver in the sprint and Meg Osborne got bronze in her age group sprint.

She was on for gold in the flags but unfortunately a "dip" in the sand decided to come between her and a gold medal!

Tam Pitt and Lauren Prynnne were flying in the flags and came in a very respectable sixth and ninth. Olivia Insole and Lauren Prynnne had a heart-stopping moment doing the board rescue. On the way in through the surf, the wave threw them off and the board flew so high up in the air it's become an internet hit!

The board landed on Olivia's leg, luckily not breaking it, but she came away with a very large bruise which she was extremely proud of.

Josh McKenna and Josh Goldby also competed to a standard to be proud of and brought the team home with very high spirits.

Our little nippers hit the beach with trepidation,

especially after seeing the surf that the juniors and masters had to contend with.

Again, 50-60 kids took part in each event but, again, we had two medal winners. Ruby Davies had a bronze in the flags and what a spectacle it was to watch.

Caitlin O'Callaghan, who was competing for the first time, came home with a bronze in the sprints. Well done, girls!

Sam Alexander narrowly missed out on a medal in flags, coming in fourth. Millie Wiggins and Ruby Davies got through to the final of board rescue, Grace Insole got through to the final of the super nipper.

Meg Roberts was an amazing competitor as she'd had a bug all week, hadn't eaten a thing and went on to compete in every event she was entered into.

The nipper team consisted of Grace Insole, Tom Insole, Ruby Davies, Theo Davies, Katie Prynnne Mickey Prynnne, Millie Wiggins, Sean McKenna, Rhian Goldby, Sam Alexander, Caitlin O'Callaghan, Morgan Mitchem and Megan Roberts.

This team worked together amazingly and all their results will be posted on our website as they all did so well, but needless to say they went on to be the best Welsh team that competed. All mums and dads were extremely proud of them all. Roll on next year!

Lastly, but by no means least, we had two little sandhoppers. Maisy Wiggins (six) and Morgan Mitchem (four), both competed in the flags and came away with medals. They both wore them to bed that night and for the following week.

We had an amazing two days of competition, and overall the masters came eighth in Britain with the ladies coming sixth.

It is Llantwit's 50th year of lifesaving next year and we are going to do it in style, so if your name isn't on the list, you will be getting the call soon!

*Vicki Wiggins*

## ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

### No more racing at Bonvilston

**THE 2012/13 point-to-point season fixture list has been published and enthusiasts in the Vale will be disappointed to learn that the Pentych Hunt Steeplechases and the Countryside Alliance (Wales) meetings, which were both held on the very popular Redlands Farm racecourse at Bonvilston, have been lost.**

Bonvilston has been the home of the Dunraven Welsh point-to-point Grand National for some years now, and Ogmores' Nick Williams will go down in hunt-racing history as the last winner.

Nick, who rode Chloe Roddick's *Dear Villez* to victory, also won the race the previous year on Paul and Myfanwy Miles's *Findlay's Find*.

The meetings attracted racegoers from all

over the country and the demise of these two fixtures will be a sad loss to Welsh horse racing.

Mr Tudor Harris, who farms the land the races have been held on, told me at the last meeting that it was getting difficult to find helpers.

There were also other factors involved as to racing taking place there in the future.

The first point-to-point fixture of the new season to be held in the Vale will be the Glamorgan Hunt's meeting at Ystradowen, near Cowbridge, on March 23.

The Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt will be holding their meeting over the same course on April 13.

The Llangeinor Hunt is moving from Laleston to a new course at the Dunraven Stud Farm near Pyle on April 20.

## Sporting success marked at Cowbridge Comprehensive



**ABOVE:** Welsh international Lloyd Williams presented some of the awards.

**ABOVE:** Hannah Sloan received the year-7 girls' endeavour award from Cowbridge Rotary Club. The year-7 boys' winner was Ellis Cartledge-Llewellyn.

### Under-9s continue their winning ways

**FOLLOWING** the early season successes against Pontyclun and Pentrych the Cowbridge under-9s squad travelled to Llandaff.

An excellent turnout by both clubs allowed 2 teams to be fielded by each club.

It proved to be a successful day as Cowbridge won 3 of the 4 games played; and the squad have now won 5 of their first 6 contact matches.

**COWBRIDGE TEAM 1 v LLANDAFF TEAM 1**

Cowbridge dominated this game with some fine attacking play and a solid defence.

A half time scoreline of 3-0 reflected the Cowbridge dominance and the second half followed the same pattern as Cowbridge ran out winners by 6 tries to 1.

The elusive Ruben Davies scoring superb a hat trick, Robbie Brown scoring 2 tries and Ollie Jones also crossing the whitewash.

**COWBRIDGE TEAM 1 v LLANDAFF TEAM 2**

This proved to be a much closer game, with Cowbridge again storming into a 3-1 half time lead, thanks to 2 Robbie Brown tries and 1 from Ruben Davies.

However, Llandaff produced a fine comeback in the second half with some excellent off loading combined with Cowbridge falling away defensively.

All Cowbridge could muster in the second half was a Robbie Brown try with Llandaff sneaking the result 5-4.

*Cowbridge team 1: Ben Hardy, Luke Treadwell, James Jones, Ifor Rees, Iolo Davies, Robbie Brown, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Ollie Jones, and Ethan Francis.*

**COWBRIDGE TEAM 2 v LLANDAFF TEAM 2**

This was a close game between two evenly balanced teams with Cowbridge tries finally edging the result by 5 tries to 4.

It was all square at half time with sides locked at 3 tries apiece with Cowbridge tries coming from Finlay Brace, Harry Treharne

and Rhydian Williams.

A fine second half brace of tries by Rhydian Williams combined with a good defensive performance by the team ensured Cowbridge ended up winners.

**COWBRIDGE TEAM 2 v LLANDAFF TEAM 1**

This was another close game with Cowbridge being made to work hard for a 5 try to 3 victory. Rhydian Williams capped a fine day with another hat trick of tries supported with tries from Harry Treharne and Tom Brennan.

Another good defensive performance, restricting the opposition to only three tries showed that some of the hard work being done in training is paying off.

*Cowbridge team 2: Rhydian Williams, Finlay Brace, Lewys Robbins, Archie Lloyd, Tom Collingbridge, Steffan Evans, Tom Brennan, Finlay Ball, Finlay Sullivan and Will Ryan.* **MF**



**Cowbridge headteacher Debra Thomas.**

**COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School staged its annual sports presentation on Thursday, September 13.**

Headteacher Debra Thomas welcomed the guests, teachers, parents and pupils to the presentation to honour the school's international sportspersons and winners of international, national, county and district competitions.

Certificates were also given to members of winning teams and county representatives.

The Head introduced the special guest, Welsh rugby international and Cardiff Blues' Lloyd Williams, a former Cowbridge pupil.

The event was compared by Gareth Roberts, who conducted the evening smoothly and efficiently.



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# SPORTING VOLUNTEERS GET A BIG 'THANK YOU'



Sports volunteers who have gone the extra mile in the Vale have been thanked at a special reception hosted by the Vale Mayor Coun Eric Hacker.

**VOLUNTEERS** who are at the heart of grass-roots sport in the Vale have been thanked for their efforts at a reception hosted by the Vale Mayor.

The importance of volunteers in sport was highlighted during the summer by the 'Games Makers' who helped make the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics such a tremendous success, and Vale Mayor Coun Eric Hacker was keen to recognise the efforts of the volunteers who have made an impact locally through their involvement with the Vale District Sports Council.

The group was recently disbanded after the best part of two decades, and among those thanked were founder member Alun Rees (Barry

Huskies Basketball Club), Angela Price (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Tony Smith (Penarth Petanque Club), Ian Le Breton (Penarth Rifle Club), Anne Horgan (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Bethan Horgan (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Leon Shakespeare (Barry Tae Kwon Do) and Heulwen Cooper (Barry Amateur Swimming Club).

Among the duties performed by the Vale District Sports Council was the organisation of the annual Vale Sports Personality of the Year Awards.

Coun Hacker said: "Grass roots sport often relies on a core of volunteers who go the extra mile for others. These individuals are among the many people in the Vale who go out of their way to run local sports clubs, and this reception was a way of saying thank you to them."

Also invited were volunteers who help run the Community Chest scheme in the Vale. Overseen by the Vale Council, with support from Sport Wales, Community Chest is a scheme that awards grants of up to £1,500 to sports clubs and organisations.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer with a local sports club, or further details about the Community Chest scheme, telephone the Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793.

## Barrivale results

**Latest results from Barrivale, September 25:**

1st Peter Millar & Diana Jones 63.19 per cent; 2nd Bryn Gough & Dave Reed 59.38; 3rd Huw Thomas & Celia Thomas 58.68 - Bryn & Dave won on handicap and also won the Nancy Malpas Memorial Trophy.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join telephone 01446 733425 or 01446 418380 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

## Golfers celebrate milestone birthday for popular member

**THERE** was a very good turnout of ladies in the clubhouse at Brynhill after golf on Thursday, to celebrate with wine, cake and flowers the 80th birthday of one of its popular members, Audrey Phillips.

Audrey first joined Brynhill back in 1960 and was lady captain in 1978 and again in 1991. She is renowned for playing in all weathers and is most encouraging of new members.

Her level of fitness is the envy of many. Recently, there was a backlog of team matches and with regular first and second team members unavailable, Audrey was to play for the first, second and third teams respectively on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

In the same week she also played in the 18-hole club competition on the Tuesday, and 12 holes in the Thursday league. A remarkable achievement for an octogenarian!

Celebration will continue next month with a 16-day trip to China.

## Recent results

**AUGUST 14 - Millennium Plate and Vets Silver Salver:** Millennium Plate - Jane Phillips, 40 points; runner-up - Hilary West, 39 points. Vets Silver Salver - Hilary West, 39 points; runner-up - Pat Cogbill, 32 points.

August 21 - Daily Mail Foursomes: winners - Glynis Gould and Margaret Codd, 76.5 net.

August 28 - Waterford Crystal Vases (bronze and silver): silver winner - Linda Howlett, 30 points; bronze winner - Carole Bunford (30 points).

September 4 - Four-Ball Better Ball Trophy: winner - Jane Phillips and Glynis Gould, 40 points over back nine from Carole Allen and Lynne Bubbins.

September 11 - John Lowden Cup/Golf Foundation Broach and CVW Modal: winner - Linda Howlett, net 72; runner-up: Lynne Bubbins, net 73.



LEFT to RIGHT: Four-ball better ball winners Jane Phillips and Glynis Gould.



Double winner Linda Howlett.



80th birthday celebration for Audrey Phillips.

## Forthcoming events

**SEPTEMBER 27 - Thursday league lunch.**

October 23 - flower arranging demonstration given by Hilary West.

November 6 - Christmas fayre at the golf club, 6pm-9pm, all welcome.

November 10 - presentation night at clubhouse, 7.30pm.

November 16 - ladies' dinner.

November 20 - ladies' AGM, clubhouse, 7.30pm.

JP

## New team member

**at Brynhill** GARETH BENNETT, whose family originate from Barry, has returned to the town to take on a major teaching role with Duncan Prior, the club's resident professional.

Gareth has a very impressive CV: winning the Sherborne Pro Am 2012 and qualifying for the Race to Woodbury top 50 on the West Region order of merit. He also created a huge academy at his previous golf club with more than 50 juniors.

He still plays competitive golf in the west region and, more importantly, has a developed eye for faults which

cause problems in a golf swing.

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Qualified club maker John Griffiths is the third member of this team. Measurements and tests are carried out at the club negating the need to travel to some far distant place, a very important point if small adjustments are required after the clubs are made. **New assistant** DUNCAN has a further new assistant - Alex Lewis.

He has a degree in sports development and coaching, and Duncan has employed him based on his enthusiasm for all matters golf.

He will work closely with Duncan and Gareth as part of his training to become a full PGA Professional in due course.

**Lessons** SINGLE lesson? Want a series with a nine-hole playing lesson to cap it off?

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## Rhoose FC in 'steady growth'

**THE** new 2012/13 season sees Rhoose FC continue its steady growth year on year.

This year the club boasts more than 15 teams and 120 players covering all age groups from year-2 to senior level.

The club's investment in its coaching staff has seen representation for Cardiff at years three, four, five and six. Players have also been selected for the Vale of Glamorgan Development squad and the Mike

Fowler Academy.

Alongside the younger players the club's senior team are having successes in the South Wales Amateur League, sitting comfortably in third place at present.

Alongside the football side of the club the social aspect has grown and is just as important. While the Olympics were on, five of the year-6 team carried out a sponsored bike ride around Rhoose covering the distance of Rhoose to the Olympic Stadium (no shorter than 250km). The lads raised more than £300 for new equipment for their team.

This year sees longstanding chairman Chris Price step down from his role within the club. The club would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for all his tireless work and efforts over the years and wishes him the best in his future projects.

New chairman Paul Humphry hopes to keep the club on the steady course as installed by Chris. All this, of course, is also down to a large team of volunteers and parents who help coach and organise events throughout the season - none showing more dedication than junior club secretary and coach Mark Bartlett, who is also finding time to forward important fixtures and news while based in Afghanistan with work.

This year's year-6 team are looking for players for an immediate start for this season. If you're interested, training takes place at Ceri Road Pitches in Rhoose every Friday at 6pm, just ask for Paul.

More details about the club can be found at our website: [www.rhoosefc.org.uk](http://www.rhoosefc.org.uk).

PH

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# GEM sport

## Athletic thank lady luck after a fighting win

HOW times have changed – when Max Boyce was singing the praises of the Pontypool front row the Swalec leagues had not been formed and Bridgend Athletic were a junior union rugby team.

The Athletic, who have risen through the tables, met Pontypool who after a well-publicised legal case against the WRU find themselves in the new Swalec Championship Division.

The home side were first on the scoreboard with a penalty kicked by Clayton Gullis.

The Athletic responded in similar fashion after a break from halfway by scrum half Aled Thomas was illegally halted. Outside half Steven Lewis kicked the penalty.

Pontypool retook the lead when, from a five metre scrum, centre Mat Thomas broke through the defence for a try under the posts which Gullis converted.

Lewis reduced the



Simon Mustoe (with the ball) makes a break, watched by Dominic Busiill who is offering support on the overlap.

PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

deficit with a second penalty, and when he was high tackled added a third to leave the half-time score 10-9 in favour of the home team.

The Athletic started the second period brightly. When Pontypool fly hacked a ball into Athletic territory they ran it straight back and forwards and backs combined before lock Jamie Doherty used his height to throw a pass over the Pontypool defence to flanker Sean Derrick. He raced down the wing to cross in the

corner. Lewis converted to put the Athletic ahead for the first time by 16-10.

Following an altercation, Athletic captain Simon Mustoe and a Pontypool forward were shown yellow cards.

The effect was more profound on the Athletic as during this period they conceded two tries – one converted – to put the home side 22-16 ahead.

All looked lost for the Athletic with Pontypool gaining the upper hand. However, from the final play of the game from a scrum on the Pontypool 22 the ball was quickly swept wide for debutant full back Dan Davies to cross in the corner.

All hinged on whether full back Steve Lewis could repeat his previous touchline conversion.

Fortune favoured the Athletic as the ball struck an upright and rolled along the crossbar before finally landing on the Pontypool side of the line for a 23-22 win for the Athletic.

It was the first ever encounter between the two sides.

For the Athletic, flanker Sean Derrick was their star performer while lock Jamie Doherty and scrum half Aled Thomas also put in

useful shifts. The front row of props Rod Apsee and Wayne Fookes and hooker Simon Mustoe also did well against heavier opponents.

This Saturday, October 6, the Athletic start a run of three home games when the highly entertaining Cardiff Metropolitan (formerly UWIC) are the visitors to Newbridge Fields.

**BEDWAS  
SECOND XV 21  
BRIDGEND  
ATHLETIC  
SECOND XV 26**

**FOLLOWING a bonus point victory the previous week at home to Penallta, the Athletic Second XV repeated the feat this time away at their Bedwas counterparts.**

The Athletic try scorers were flanker Curtis Williams, centres Johnny Nation and Hywel Davies and wing Andrew Tyler.

Outside half Tom Cole converted three of the tries.

For the Athletic Williams, props Aled Thomas and Lewis Davies and No8 Liam Griffiths stood out at forward, while Johnny Nation, Hywel Davies and Tom Cole were the pick of the backs.

AB

## KENFIG HILL WORK HARD FOR THEIR WIN

KENFIG HILL were in the ascendancy from the kick-off against Llangenech with determined defence work by the visitors keeping them out.

A good scrummage followed by a ruck close to the Llangenech line saw open side flanker Jason Davies cross for a try.

Llangenech went on the attack and a good break and pass to second row Andrew Kowie saw him gallop towards the try line. Kenfig Hill right wing Shaun Burnell, playing his first game of the season after recovering from injury, met him head on and tackled him inches from the line, Kenfig Hill were then able to clear the ball.

After more attacking play the Mules were rewarded with a try by No8 Steve Gillard.

Left winger Tylon Mafi then showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition to score in the corner.

Llangenech opened the scoring in the second half with a long-range break finished off by right winger Liam Hutchins.

Kenfig Hill outside half Nicky Giles added a penalty for the home side.

The Mules were denied two further tries in quick succession when Shaun Burnell was tackled on the line and just put a foot in touch.

Burnell was again thwarted minutes later when he sprinted from the half-way line and touched down only for the final pass to have been judged forward. He was not to be denied and sidestepped his way over the line for the bonus point try.

Llangenech then scored a try from inside their own half through centre Nathan Bowe, converted by outside half Ricky Williams, and in the dying second substitute Steve Davies scored, converted by



Ashley Hickey runs through a tackle. Photographs by Peter Gilling.

Williams to give the visitors a losing bonus point.

**Final score: Kenfig Hill 23, Llangenech 19.**

This was a tough game with both defences tackling strongly.

Captain and centre Chris Tossell was voted as man of the match by the spectators. Fellow centre Marc Fitzgerald also had a superb game as did Tylon Mafi, Steve Gillard, Matthew Legg and Jason Davies.

**KENFIG  
HILL/CORNELLY  
YOUTH 13**

**BRIDGEND  
ATHLETIC  
YOUTH 10**

**THIS was a superb game of youth rugby with the Mules victorious.**

Mike Kennedy scored a fine try for Kenfig Hill with Lloyd Bradley scoring a conversion and two penalties.

Head coach Ben John said this was an excellent all-round performance with captain and No8 Kyle Davies standing out. There was another good performance by the front row.

GOS



Lewis Morgan.

## P&K juniors keep up the good form



**P&K JUNIORS have continued their winning ways from a very successful season last year.**

They defended the Rhys Davies Trophy, which they won at Royal Porthcawl last year.

More recently, in a tough match they beat their local rivals the Grove at Swansea Bay to clinch the West Glamorgan title. P&K won two matches, lost one and won the reserves.

Jamie Jones and Tom

Beale lost the first game, giving the Grove a moral boost. The second game went to the final hole, but P&K won the third game before the second game had finished.

Jake Prosser and Ben Vance Daniel won this five and four.

The pressure was now on the second game and Tom Furneaux and Rhodri Booth had to dig deep having frittered away an early lead.

They stood level pegging on the 18th tee. It appeared to be all over when Tom found a fairway bunker. Rhodri

focused and put the ball on the green.

Tom putted well, resulting in a par which was sufficient to give P&K a win.

They will now face the winners from East Glamorgan for the all-Glamorgan title which they won last year.

They have also qualified for the Welsh Finals in Builth, a competition they lost by a single shot last year. Their confidence is up and they hope to go one better and bring home yet another trophy for the already brimming cabinet. **JM**

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## Bridge results

**THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:**

Wednesday, September 26: first – Mike Best and Liam Sheridan; second – Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden; third – Glyn Williams and Mel Humphries.

Friday, September 28: first – Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill; second – John Evans and Liam Sheridan; third – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church

Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7pm with Graham Jones.

All welcome to register, please contact Graham Jones on 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Afternoon lessons on Thursdays at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, with John Evans, whose lessons are for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play.

For more details and to register an interest please contact John on 01656 880372. **DN**